DAZZLE

MINARI ENDOH

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TOKYOPOP

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遠藤海成

MINARI ENDOH

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DAZZLE™

Vol. 5

Minari Endoh

TOKYOPOP®

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Contents

Chapter 33: After Flowers Bloom–Part 3: Snowmelt.....9

Intermission: A Pretty Good Holiday.....31

Chapter 34: One Cold Winter Day–Part 1:
Just Wishing for Happiness.....39

Chapter 35: One Cold Winter Day–Part 2:
Ravages of the Chanting Voice.....76

Chapter 36: The Ephemeral Proposition–Part 1:
And So the Game Continues.....91

Chapter 37: The Ephemeral Proposition–Part 2: Separated.....125

Chapter 38: The Ephemeral Proposition–Part 3:
Like the End of a Long Dream.....143

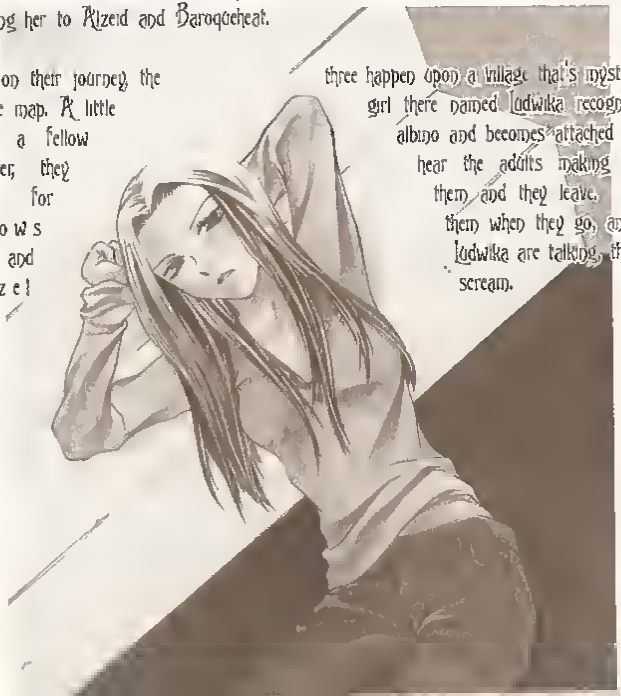
Chapter 39: The Ephemeral Proposition–Part 4 The Left Behind.....179

Story So Far...

A young girl named Rahzel with magical abilities is abruptly sent off to see the world by her father. At first she is alone on her journey...until she meets Alzeid, a mysterious lone traveler who has abilities similar to hers. He's on a mission to find his father's killer...and even though they initially don't get along, the two become travel partners, along with an old acquaintance of Alzeid's named Baroqueheat.

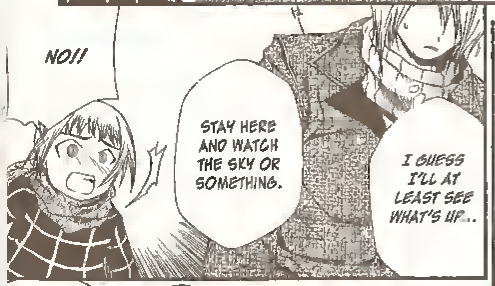
At one of the towns on their journey they meet Dee Fennel, a psychopathic member of a religious cult. Dee becomes obsessed with Rahzel, eventually kidnapping her. Rahzel manages to escape ... but they soon realize that she has been injected with a mysterious "memory erasing" drug. Dee soon comes back for a second attack, and manages to kidnap Rahzel yet again while Baroqueheat and Alzeid are fighting his minion. Rahzel discovers that Dee plans to transfer his soul to her body in order to become an angel. However, as she lies unconscious, a mysterious man who seems to be pulling the strings behind the scenes stabs and kills Dee, returning her to Alzeid and Baroqueheat.

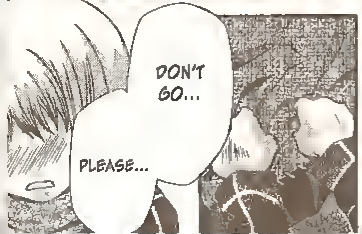
Later on their journey, the three happen upon a village that's mysteriously off the map. A little girl there named Ludwika recognizes Alzeid a fellow albino and becomes attached to him. However, they hear the adults making sinister plans for them and they leave. Ludwika follows them when they go, and while Alzeid and Rahzel Ludwika are talking, they hear a scream.

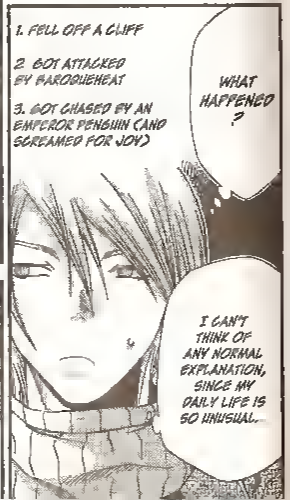


I REMEMBER...

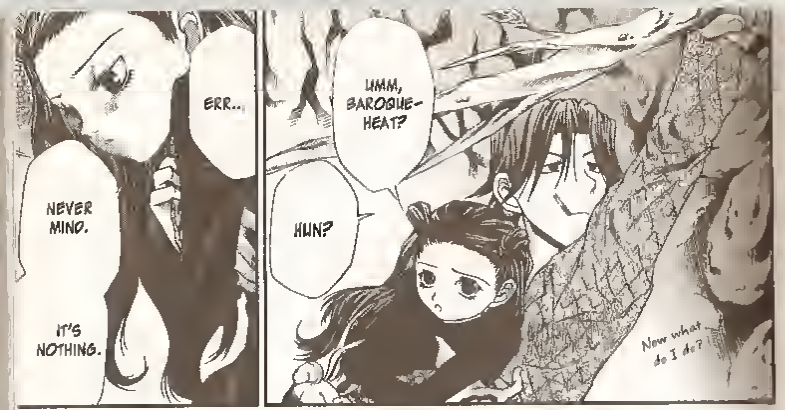
...THE DIZZYING VIVIDNESS...

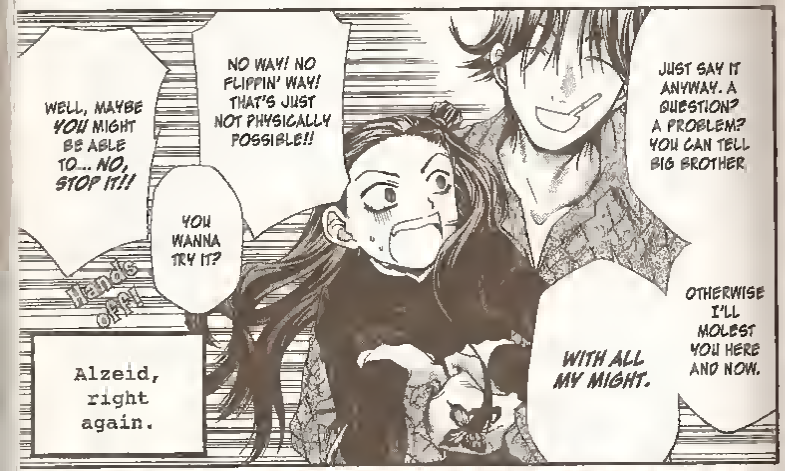


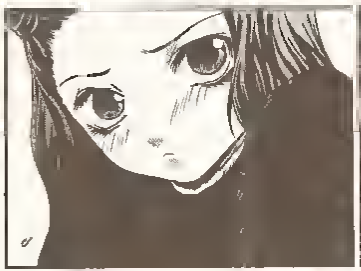


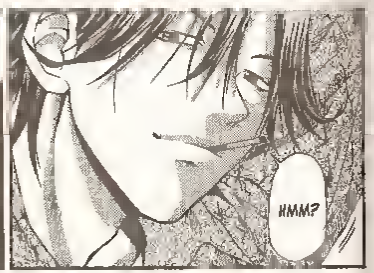

1. FELL OFF A CLIFF
2. GOT ATTACKED BY BARQUEHEAT
3. GOT CHASED BY AN EMPEROR PENGUIN (AND SCREAMED FOR JOY)
WHAT HAPPENED?
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY NORMAL EXPLANATION, SINCE MY DAILY LIFE IS SO UNUSUAL.

Chapter 33: After Flowers Bloom--Part 3: Snowmelt


ERR..
NEVER MIND.
IT'S NOTHING.
UMM, BAROSUE-HEAT?
HUH?
Now what do I do?

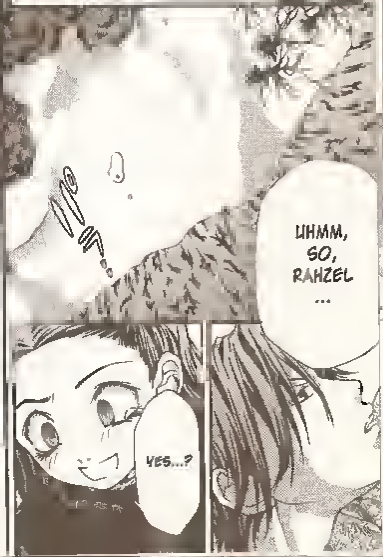

WELL, MAYBE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO... NO, STOP IT!!
NO WAY! NO FLIPPIN' WAY! THAT'S JUST NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE!!
YOU WANNA TRY IT?
Hands off!
JUST SAY IT ANYWAY. A QUESTION? A PROBLEM? YOU CAN TELL BIG BROTHER
WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
OTHERWISE I'LL MOLEST YOU HERE AND NOW.
Alzeid, right again.

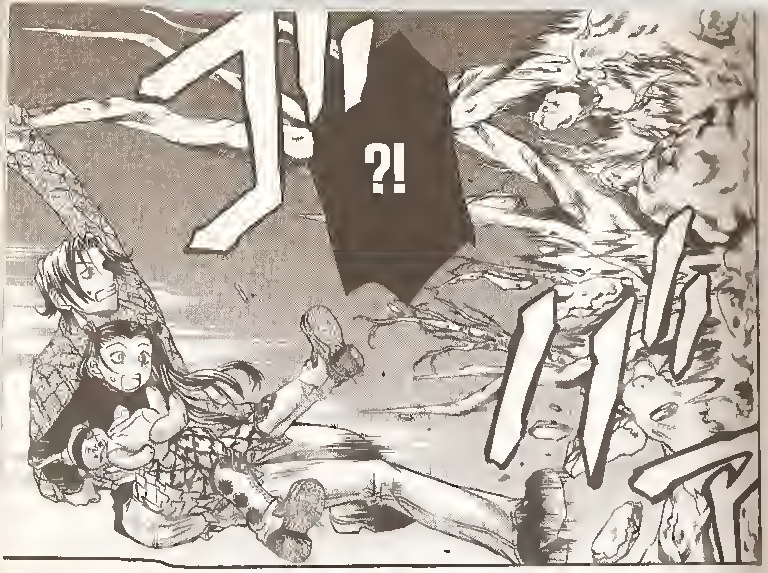


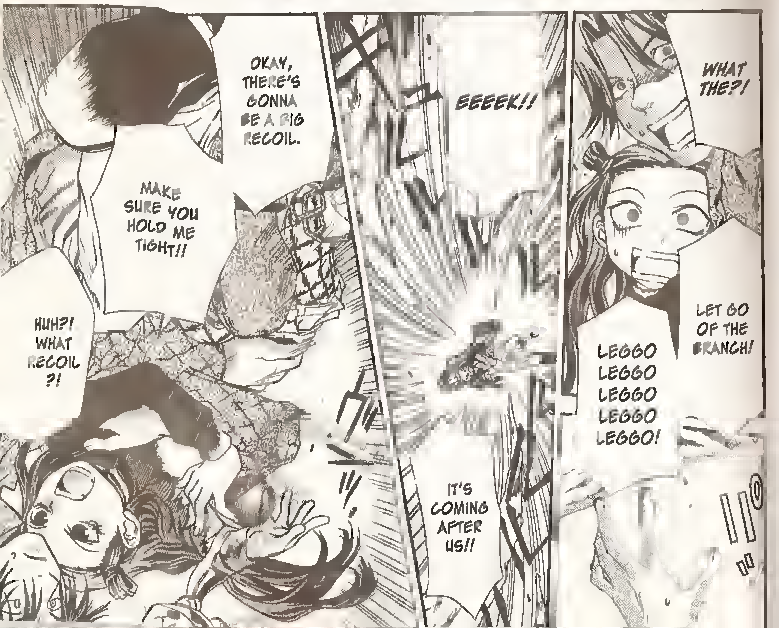

HMM?

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT AOHD?
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.
I'M VERY SORRY.
Alzeid was correct.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK SOON.

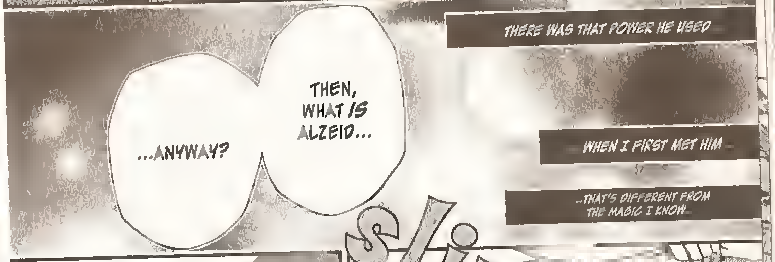

UHMM, SO, RAHZEL ...
YES...?


?!


OKAY, THERE'S GONNA BE A BIG RECOIL.
MAKE SURE YOU HOLD ME TIGHT!!
HUH?! WHAT RECOIL ?!
BEEEK!!
IT'S COMING AFTER US!!
WHAT THE?!
LET GO OF THE BRANCH!
LEGGO LEGGO LEGGO LEGGO LEGGO!

...AND HE'S HEALTHY...
BUT HE'S FINE BEING IN THE SUN...
...AND HE CAN SEE...
AND...

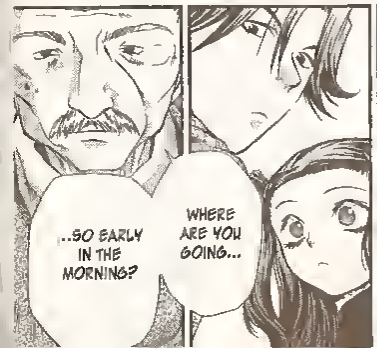
REMEMBER WHAT ALZEID WAS SAYING ABOUT ALBINOS?
THAT ACTUALLY APPLIES TO HIMSELF AS WELL, DOESN'T IT?
UH- HUH?

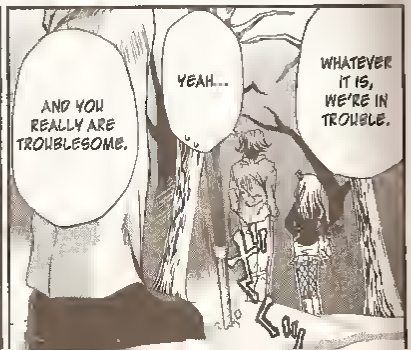

THERE WAS THAT POWER HE USED
WHEN I FIRST MET HIM...
...THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE MAGIC I KNOW...
THEN, WHAT IS ALZEID...
...ANYWAY?

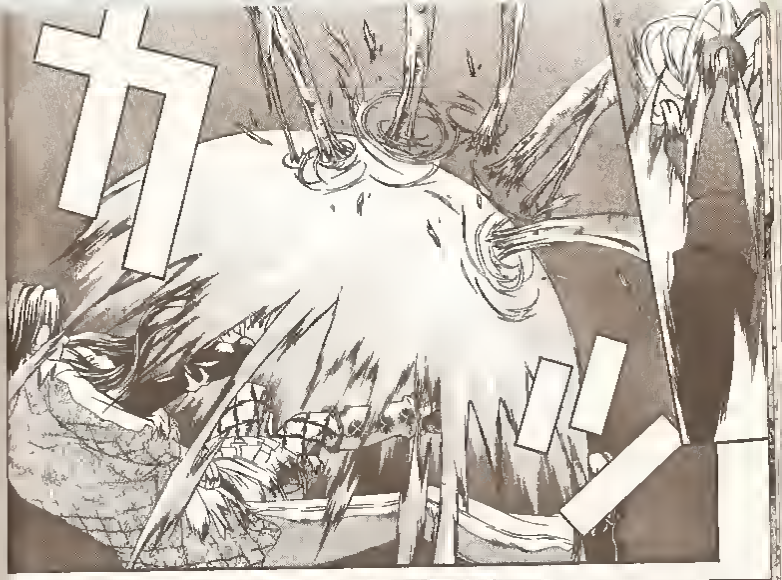
crack
crack
Geh!!
IT'S GONNA--?!
WHICH ONE?!
WAIT, IT'S COMING OUT...?
The branch is about to break
THAT'S NOT IT...
slip
A HUMOROUS SOUND? ONOMAT-OPOEIA?! A SOUND EFFECT?! WHAT AN INSULT!!
"SLIP"?! WHAT'S THAT?

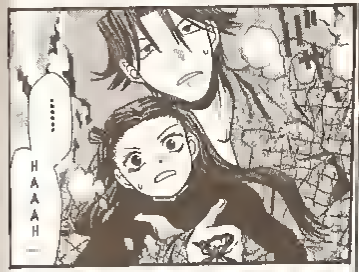
Haughtily
AND YOU'RE TOO HEAVY, BAROQUE-HEAT
Ehem!
I MEAN ...!
NO WAY! IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOO TIRING!!
Hey, Ashy
ON SECOND THOUGHT, SINCE YOU'RE A WITCH, RAHZEL..
...YOU COULD'VE FLOWN THROUGH THE SKY OR SOMETHING..

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?
I FIND MYSELF AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.

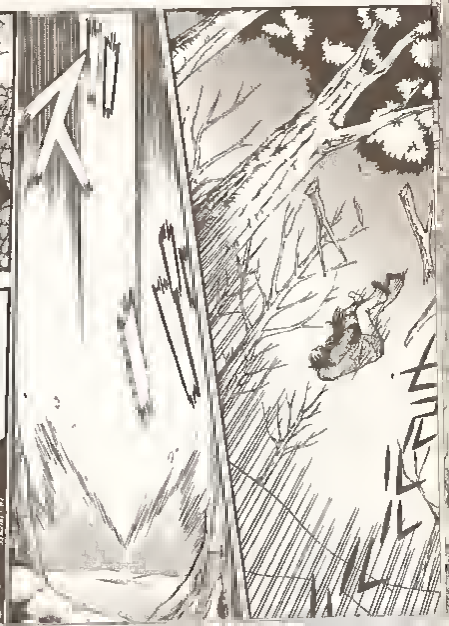

...SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...

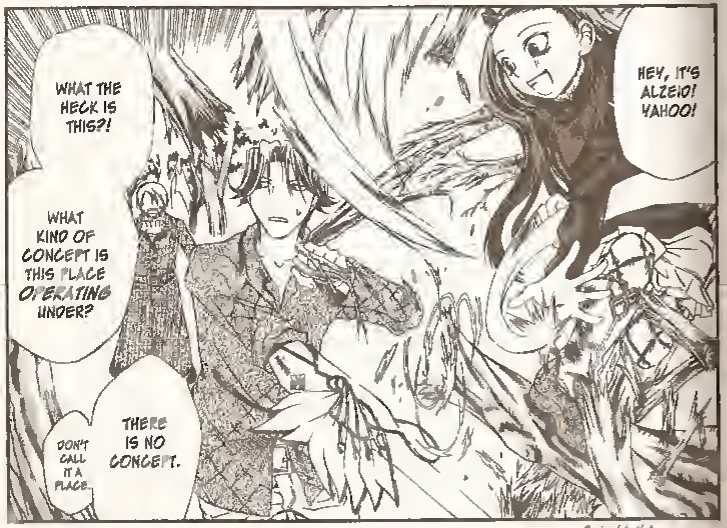

AND YOU REALLY ARE TROUBLESOME.
YEAH...
WHATEVER IT IS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.




.....
HAAAH

THOUGH EVEN LANDING ON THIS SNOW, I'M IN A WHOLE LOT OF PAIN..
UH-HUH.
YEAH! WE'RE SAFE!!

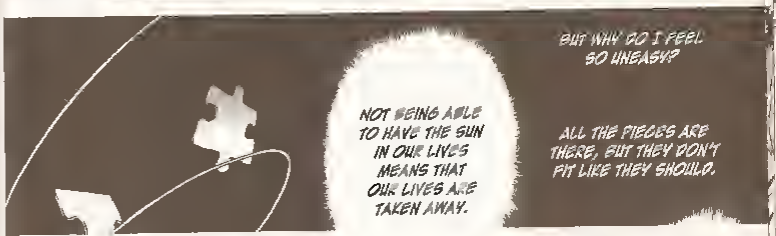


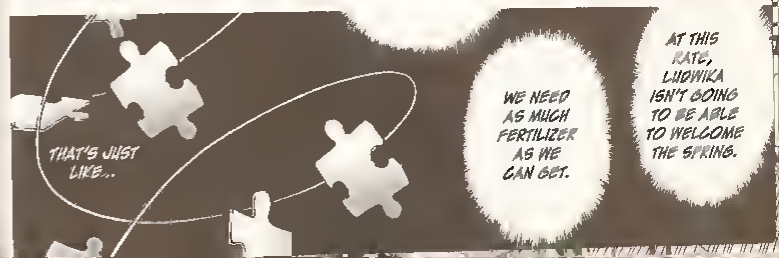

HEY, IT'S ALZEIO! YAHOO!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!
WHAT KIND OF CONCEPT IS THIS PLACE OPERATING UNDER?
THERE IS NO CONCEPT.
DON'T CALL IT A PLACE.

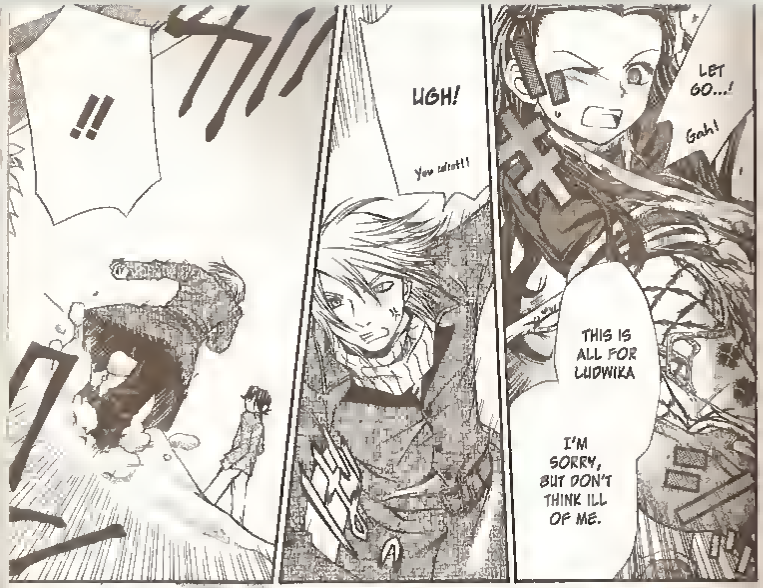
Be kind to Nature.

COME JOIN THE DEFORESTATION CONVENTION, ALZEIO.
ARE THEY GIVING OUT ANY PRIZES?
NO THANKS!
A CLASSY, WHOLE YEAR'S WORTH OF FIREWOOD!!

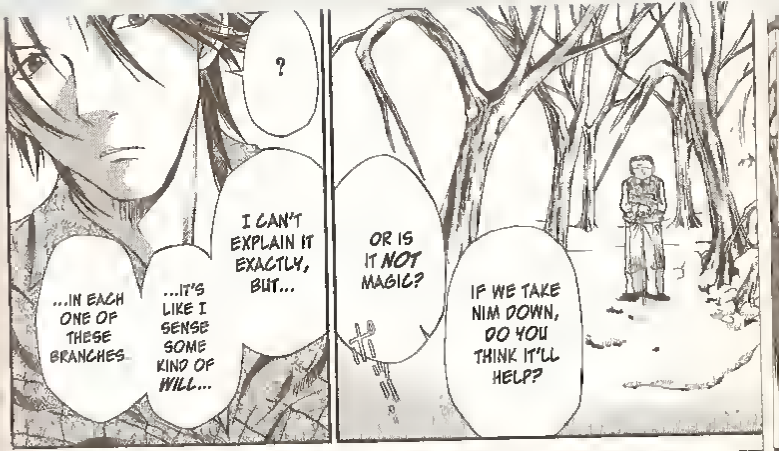
TSK!
I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
EVEN IF THEY FELL OFF A CLIFF, OR GOT ATTACKED BY SOME WILD ANIMAL...
...THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.


BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE THE SUN IN OUR LIVES MEANS THAT OUR LIVES ARE TAKEN AWAY.
ALL THE PIECES ARE THERE, BUT THEY DON'T FIT LIKE THEY SHOULD.

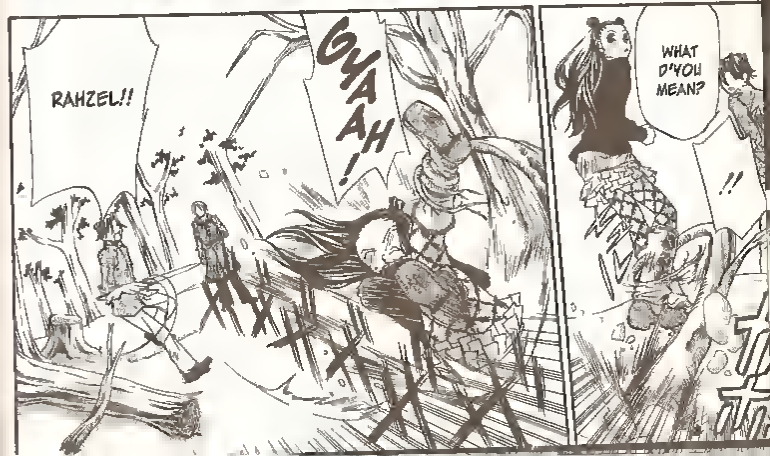


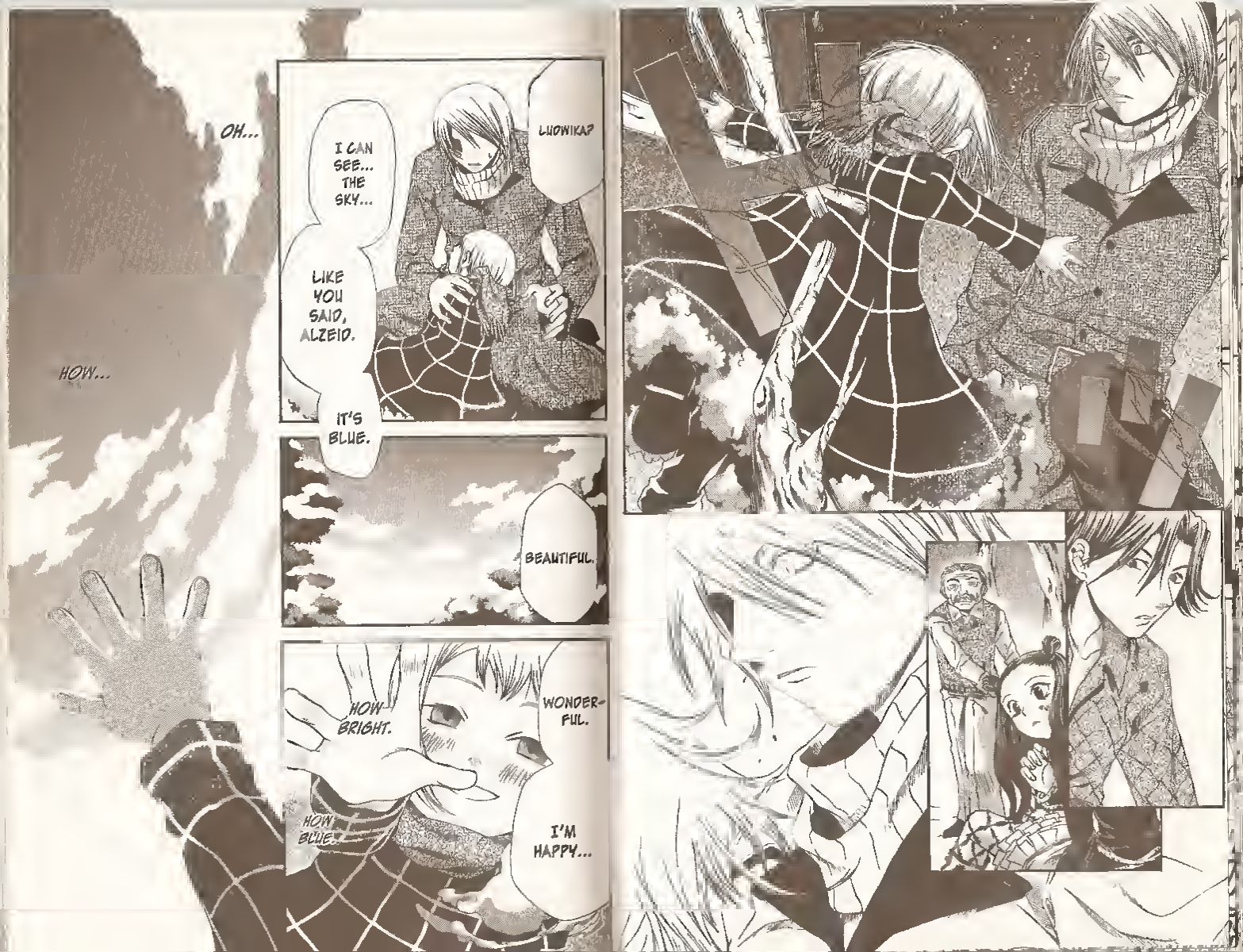

!!
UGH!
You idiot!!
LET GO...!
Gah!
THIS IS ALL FOR LUDWIKA
I'M SORRY, BUT DON'T THINK ILL OF ME.

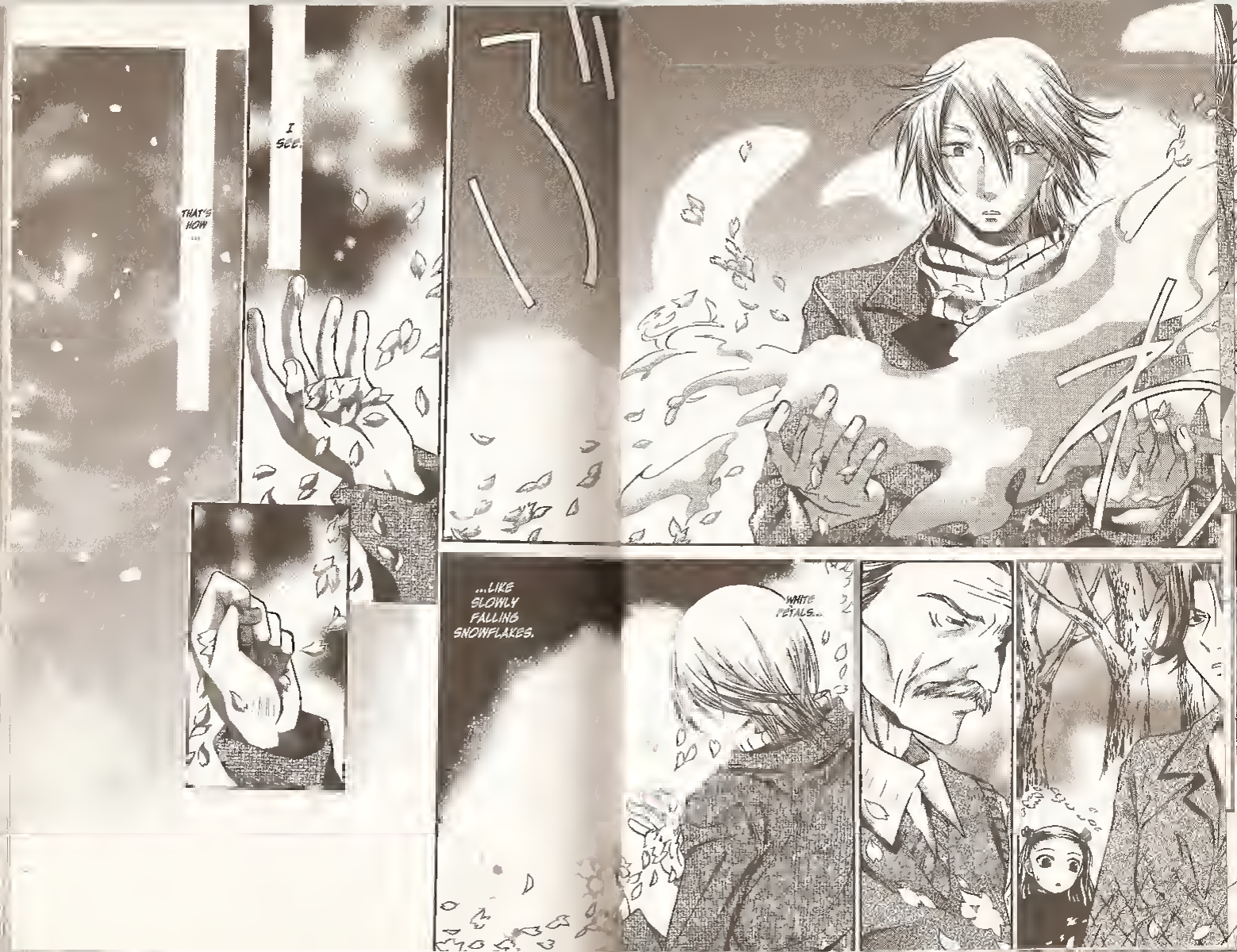
THE SNOW IS TOO DEEP...
YOU'LL FOLLOW THEM SHORTLY.
DON'T WORRY.

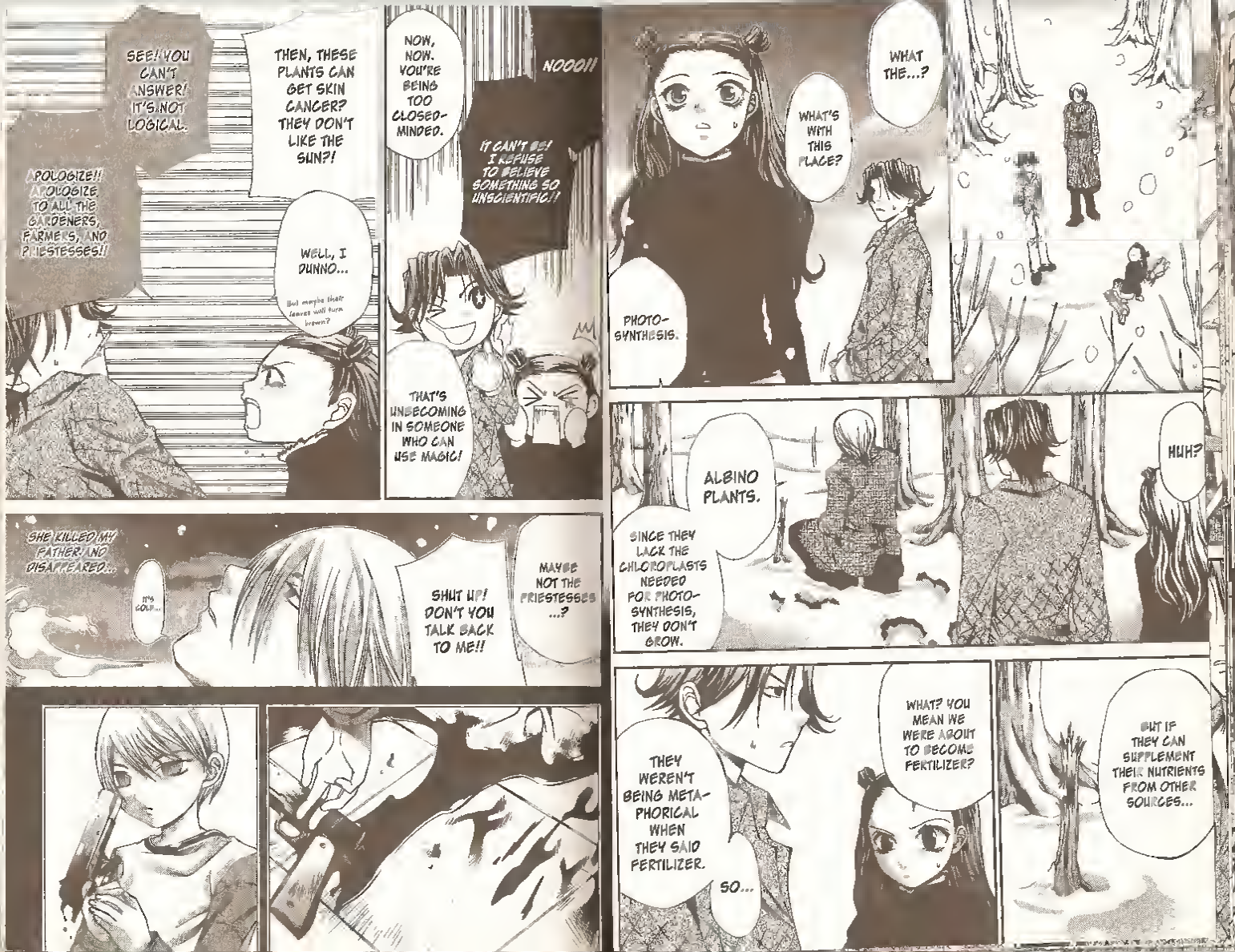

?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT EXACTLY, BUT...
...IT'S LIKE I SENSE SOME KIND OF WILL...
...IN EACH ONE OF THESE BRANCHES
OR IS IT NOT MAGIC?
IF WE TAKE NIM DOWN, DO YOU THINK IT'LL HELP?

IT'S NOT HOSTILITY OR ANIMOSITY ...
...BUT SOMETHING LIKE SORROW.
LIKE A PRAYER...


RAHZEL!!
GUAAH!
WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
!!

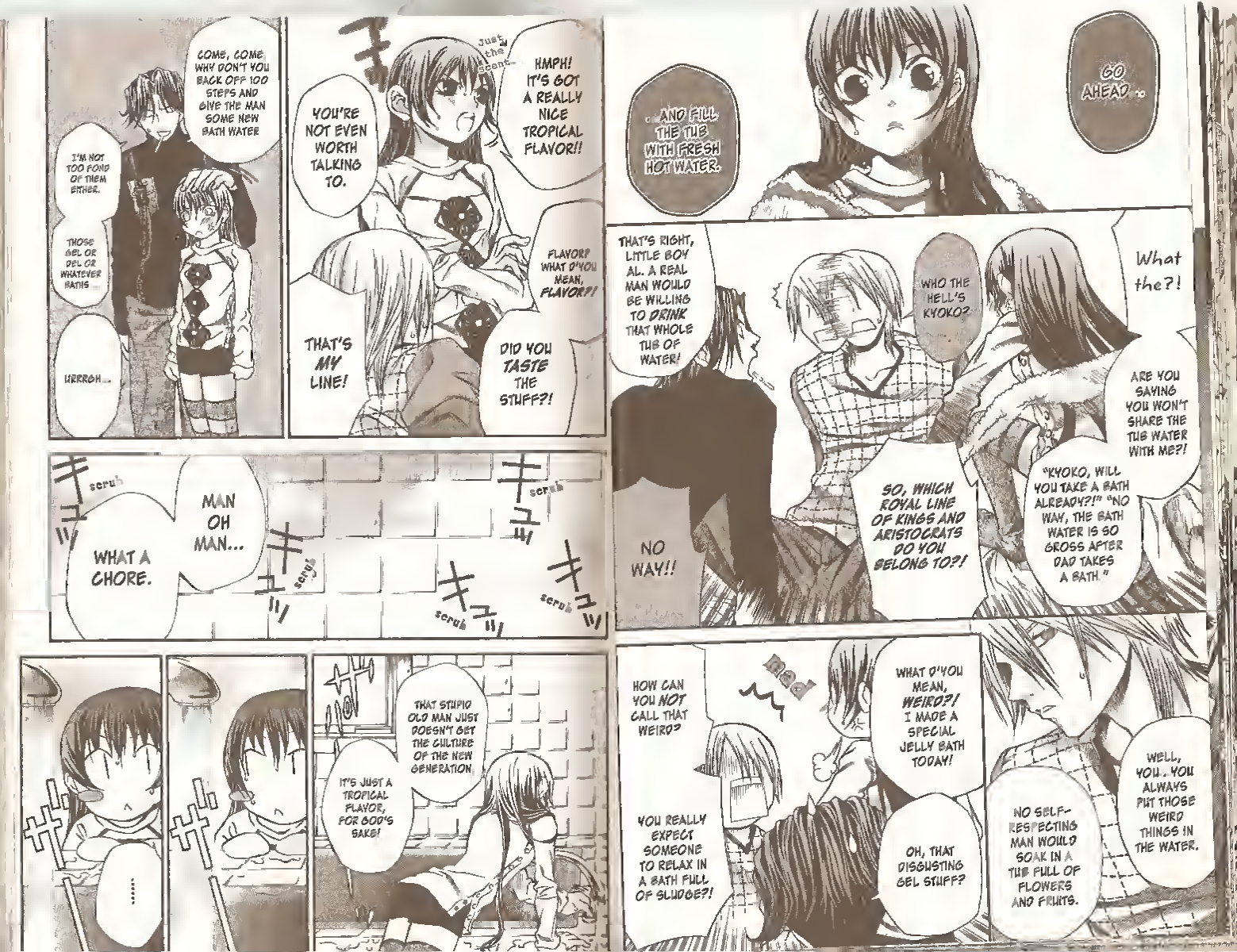

OH...
HOW...
LUDWIKA?
I CAN SEE... THE SKY...
LIKE YOU SAID, ALZEID.
IT'S BLUE.
BEAUTIFUL.
HOW BRIGHT.
WONDER-FUL.
HOW BLUE...
I'M HAPPY...


THAT'S HOW ...
I SEE.
...LIKE SLOWLY FALLING SNOWFLAKES.
WHITE PETALS...


SEE! YOU CAN'T ANSWER! IT'S NOT LOGICAL.
THEN, THESE PLANTS CAN GET SKIN CANCER? THEY DON'T LIKE THE SUN?!
APOLOGIZE!! APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE GARDENERS, FARMERS, AND PRIESTESSES!!
WELL, I DUNNO...
But maybe their leaves will turn brown?
NOW, NOW. YOU'RE BEING TOO CLOSED-MINDED.
NOOO!!
IT CAN'T BE! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE SOMETHING SO UNSCIENTIFIC!!
THAT'S UNBECOMING IN SOMEONE WHO CAN USE MAGIC!
WHAT THE...?
WHAT'S WITH THIS PLACE?
PHOTO-SYNTHESIS.
HUH?
ALBINO PLANTS.
SINCE THEY LACK THE CHLOROPLASTS NEEDED FOR PHOTO-SYNTHESIS, THEY DON'T GROW.
SHE KILLED MY FATHER AND DISAPPEARED...
IT'S COLD...
SHUT UP! DON'T YOU TALK BACK TO ME!!
MAYBE NOT THE PRIESTESSES ...?
WHAT? YOU MEAN WE WERE ABOUT TO BECOME FERTILIZER?
THEY WEREN'T BEING META-PHORICAL WHEN THEY SAID FERTILIZER.
SO...
BUT IF THEY CAN SUPPLEMENT THEIR NUTRIENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES...

LOOK!!
ちょ。
WHAT IS IT NOW?
OH, SHUSH!
COME OVER HERE AND SEE!
THE LIFE ENERGY OF PLANTS IS IMPRESSIVE.
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T A BELIEVER.
SHUT UP
ON SUCH A MEAGER-LOOKING BRANCH...
...AN EVEN WORSE-LOOKING BUD...
OF COURSE IT WILL!
D'YOU THINK IT'LL GROW MUCH?
UH-HUH.
YEAH.
THEY ARE TENACIOUS.
Heh
IT WAS SO CLEAR AND WIDE THAT IT MADE WHAT I HAD IMAGINED RIDICULOUS IN COMPARISON.
BUT THE COLOR OF THE SKY THAT I SAW THE FIRST TIME WAS A VIVID BLUE.
OH, BUT...
HEY!
LISTEN, ALZEID, HEY!
BUT THE BLUE OF YOUR EYES IS EVEN MORE.

THE BATH IS FREE NOW!
Intermission:
A Pretty Good Holiday
THE SNOW IS MELTING...
...WITH THE SUNLIGHT.
WHEN SPRING ARRIVES, PERHAPS THERE WILL BE A BLOSSOM OR TWO.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ALZEID, YOU'RE SUCH A POET!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ONE FIRST, ALZEID?
I'LL TAKE ONE LATER.
I'M ALMOST OUT OF CIGS, SO I NEED TO GO BUY SOME.
FINE.


COME, COME. WHY DON'T YOU BACK OFF 100 STEPS AND GIVE THE MAN SOME NEW BATH WATER
I'M NOT TOO FOND OF THEM EITHER.
THOSE GEL OR GEL OR WHATEVER PARTS...
HRRRGH...
Just the scent...
HMPH! IT'S GOT A REALLY NICE TROPICAL FLAVOR!!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTH TALKING TO.
FLAVOR? WHAT D'YOU MEAN, FLAVOR?!
THAT'S MY LINE!
DID YOU TASTE THE STUFF?!
GO AHEAD...
...AND FILL THE TUB WITH FRESH HOT WATER.
THAT'S RIGHT, LITTLE BOY AL. A REAL MAN WOULD BE WILLING TO DRINK THAT WHOLE TUB OF WATER!
NO WAY!!
WHO THE HELL'S KYOKO?
SO, WHICH ROYAL LINE OF KINGS AND ARISTOCRATS DO YOU BELONG TO?!
What the?!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T SHARE THE TUB WATER WITH ME?!
"KYOKO, WILL YOU TAKE A BATH ALREADY?!" "NO WAY, THE BATH WATER IS SO GROSS AFTER DAD TAKES A BATH."
scrub
MAN OH MAN...
WHAT A CHORE.
.....
THAT STUPID OLD MAN JUST DOESN'T GET THE CULTURE OF THE NEW GENERATION.
IT'S JUST A TROPICAL FLAVOR, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
mad
HOW CAN YOU NOT CALL THAT WEIRD?
YOU REALLY EXPECT SOMEONE TO RELAX IN A BATH FULL OF SLUDGE?!
WHAT D'YOU MEAN, WEIRD?! I MADE A SPECIAL JELLY BATH TODAY!
OH, THAT DISGUSTING GEL STUFF?
NO SELF-RESPECTING MAN WOULD SOAK IN A TUB FULL OF FLOWERS AND FRUITS.
WELL, YOU.. YOU ALWAYS PUT THOSE WEIRD THINGS IN THE WATER.

AL...
WHAT'S UP, LITTLE BOY AL?
DID YOU RUN OUT OF SOAP OR SOMETHING?
.....
BUBBLE BATH?
I SEE...
I'M GOING TO MAKE THAT CHICK CRY.
CUT THAT OUT. YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
I'M GOING TO BEAT HER UP.
C'MON, IT'S JUST BUBBLE BATH.
IF YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU GET IN?
...REALLY?
HERE, RAHZEL. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD WITH WET HAIR LIKE THAT.
THANKS.
THE BATH IS READY.
THANKS.
YOU LIKE PUTTING THINGS IN THE BATH, DON'T YOU, RAHZEL.
I DO. WHAT ABOUT YOU, BAROQUEHEAT?
WELL, I'VE USUALLY GOT NO OPINION EITHER WAY.
BUT IF IT'S A BATH WITH A NICE LADY WASHING MY BACK, I LOVE IT!
Yeah, yeah.
IS THAT SO?
WOULD YOU PUT OUT YOUR CIGARETTE? IT'S GONNA STINK UP MY HAIR..
BUT ALZEID DOESN'T LIKE TO TAKE BATHS, DOES HE?
YES, HE SAID THEY MAKE HIM LIGHTHEADED...
THAT STUPID CHICK!!
Whoa
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

NO WAY. I JUST DRIED MY HAIR.
REALLY?
IT'D BE SO MUCH FUN!
PLEASE TELL ME THAT'S NOT YOUR ONLY OBJECTION
klak klak klak klak klak

HEY, YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.
GET OUT RIGHT THIS INSTANT-- AND GO HANG YOURSELF!
THE INN-KEEPER'S GONNA GET MAD...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GET IN!
GET THE HELL OUT!!
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD REALLY GET IN!
WELL, THANKS FOR THE INVITE!
YOU IDIOT!!

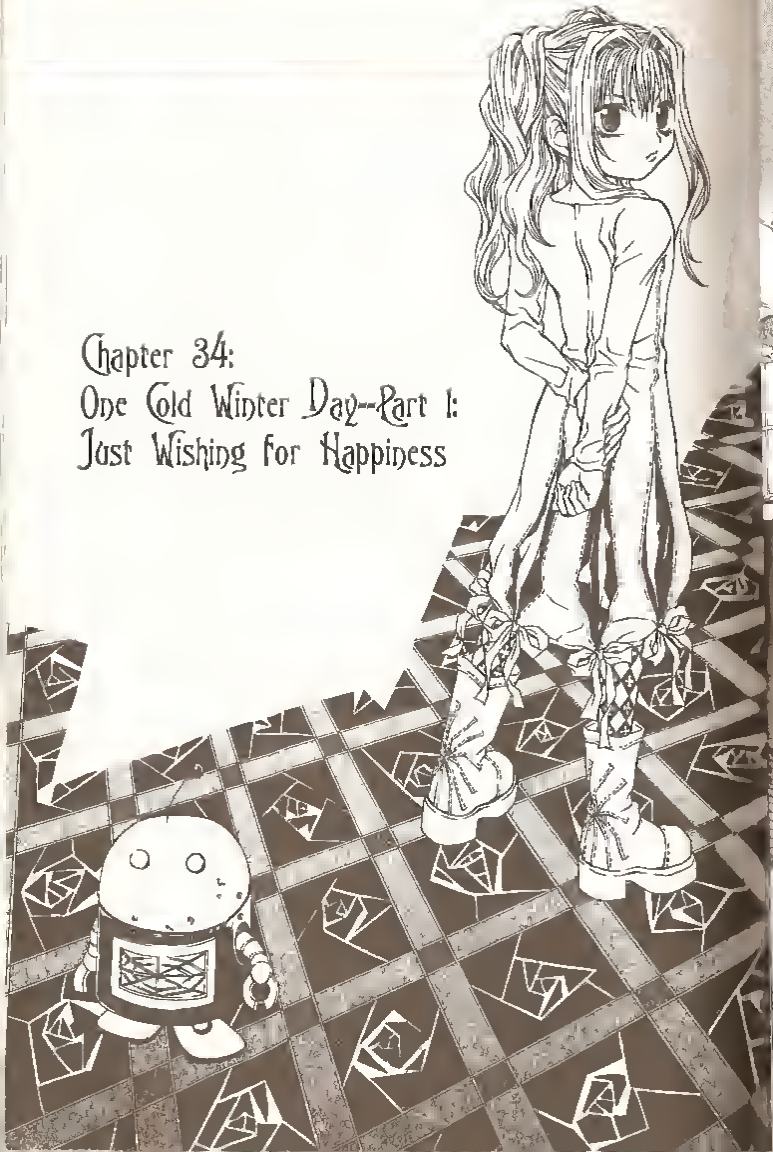
"WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO MY CHILD?!"
"EHAAH!"
"NO, HELP!"
"DON'T EAT ME!"
YOU THINK SO?

HEY! THE WATER'S PERFECT!
OH MY...
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU TWO HAVEN'T TOLD ME?

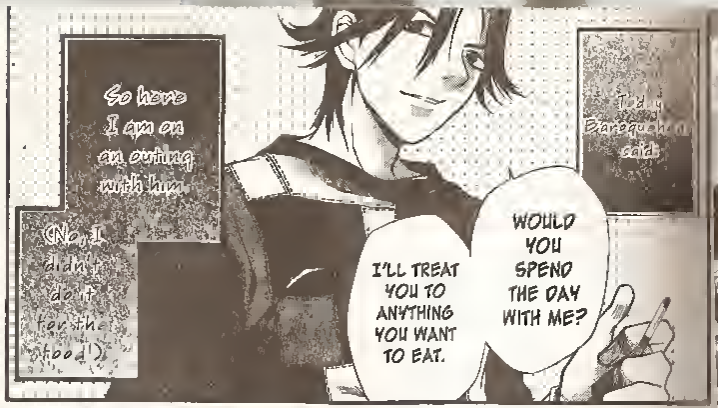
OH! THIS IS ONE FINE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT!
NOW THEN, I SHALL PRESENT YOU, RAHZEL, WITH THIS WATER GUN.
HERE YOU GO.
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU GOT IN?!?!
WAAAH! BUT THE FISH IS JUST HUNGRY!

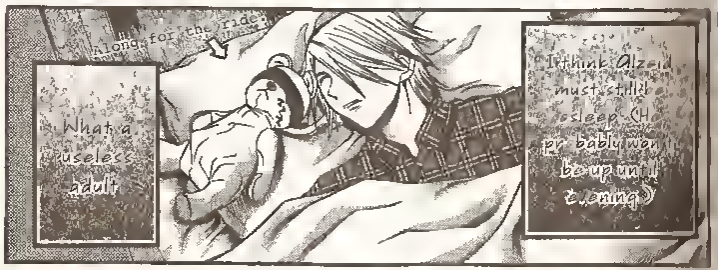
THIS BUBBLE BATH IS GREAT!
I HAD A HARD TIME DECIDING BETWEEN PEACH FLAVOR, VANILLA FLAVOR, AND BATH SALTS, BUT..
WHY DON'T YOU GET IN TOO, RAHZEL?
AND YOU SHOULD PICK SALT! DEFINITELY SALT!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL THEM FLAVORS!
SINCE YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE JELLY IDEA, I DECIDED TO GO FOR BUBBLES.
SMART-ASS!!
SO, WHAT THE HECK ARE THESE BUBBLES DOING HERE?!

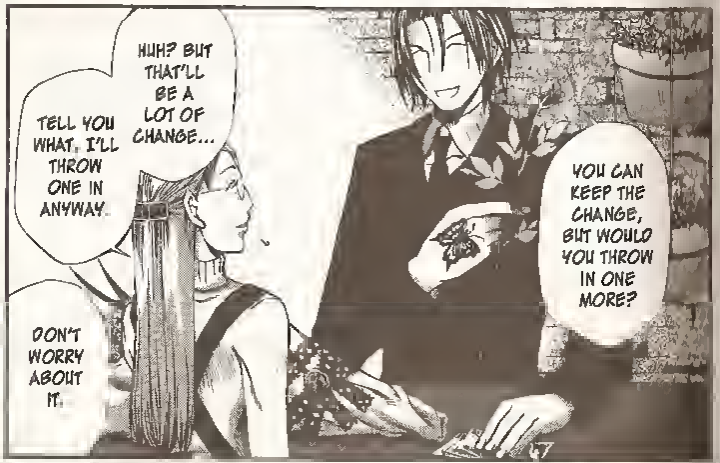
Chapter 34:
One Cold Winter Day--Part 1:
Just Wishing for Happiness



ME NEITHER!
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU WIN.
ALL RIGHT. THOSE SHAMPOO BOTTLES THERE-- THOSE ARE THE TARGET, OKAY?
.....
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO SHOOT, IT WOULD BE MORE CHALLENGING WITH A MOVING TARGET, WOULDN'T IT?
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
HERE, ALZEID. WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGN--
UGH, HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?
HEY, GUESTS! KEEP IT DOWN IN THERE!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!


So here I am on an outing with him.
(No, I didn't do it for the food.)
Told Barequah I'd
WOULD YOU SPEND THE DAY WITH ME?
I'LL TREAT YOU TO ANYTHING YOU WANT TO EAT.


What a useless adult
along for the ride.
I think Alzeid must still be asleep. (He pr bably was up until evening.)


TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL THROW ONE IN ANYWAY.
HUH? BUT THAT'LL BE A LOT OF CHANGE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU CAN KEEP THE CHANGE, BUT WOULD YOU THROW IN ONE MORE?

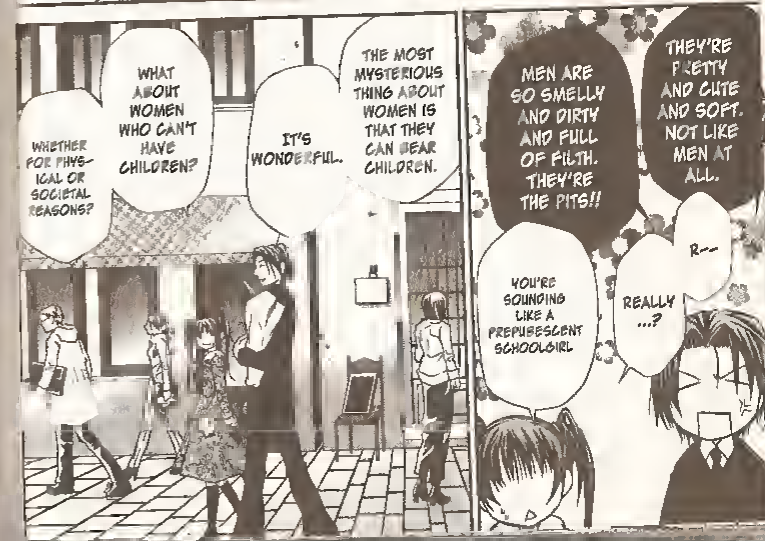
Hello Rahzel, here
Right now we're in the port town of Bernpuela.
We're here to take a short cross-the-island boat to some village in the southwest.
THIS, THIS AND THIS...
WOULD YOU ADD A FEW MORE FLOWERS TO MAKE A BOUQUET?
AND CAN YOU USE THAT LACY RIBBON?

IT'D BE NICE IF ALL THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD COULD BE HAPPY.
ALL THE MEN CAN SPIT UP BLOOD AND GO TO HELL.
ALL BUT ME, OF COURSE.
THERE'S A MINOR POINT THAT I CAN'T QUITE AGREE WITH...
IT'S SAD WHEN THEIR GOD-GIVEN RIGHT IS TAKEN AWAY..
..AND THEY HAVE TO STRUGGLE EVEN HARDER IN LIFE..
BUT I ALSO FIND WOMEN WHO FIGHT BEAUTIFUL.
I RESPECT THEM.

"YOU LOOK COOL" IS WHAT YOU SHOULD SAY AT AN OCCASION LIKE THIS.
AH HA HA!
YOU LOOK COOL.
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE...
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE IN FINE FORM TODAY, BAROQUEHEAT.
BLACK SUIT AND BLACK TIE..
YOUR HAIR IS ALL COMBED AND NICE.

Su...
HERE. A BEAUTY THAT NEEDS NO EMBELLISHMENT...
...FOR YOU WHO SURPASS THAT BEAUTY.
Peek
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG...?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PUT A RIBBON ON IT AT LEAST?
THERE'S NO NEED.

YUP. I LOVE 'EM! ♡
YOU LIKE WOMEN, DON'T YOU?


WHETHER FOR PHYSICAL OR SOCIETAL REASONS?
WHAT ABOUT WOMEN WHO CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN?
IT'S WONDERFUL..
THE MOST MYSTERIOUS THING ABOUT WOMEN IS THAT THEY CAN BEAR CHILDREN.
MEN ARE SO SMELLY AND DIRTY AND FULL OF FILTH. THEY'RE THE PITS!!
THEY'RE PRETTY AND CUTE AND SOFT. NOT LIKE MEN AT ALL.
YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE A PREPUBESCENT SCHOOLGIRL
R--
REALLY ...?

NOW WILL YOU?
ALL RIGHT.

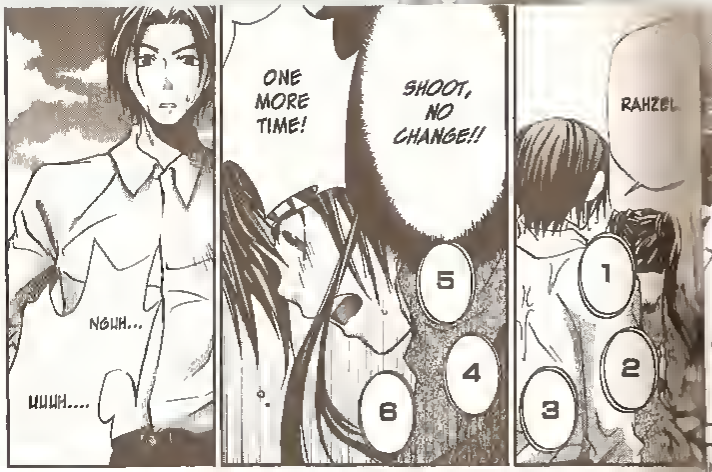
WHAT ?!!
A GIGOLO.
IT'S JUST LIKE...?
HE'S JUST LIKE...
SORRY, I DIDN'T NOTICE.
klak
I WOULDN'T. IT'S SMOKY AROUND YOU.
I'LL WALK UPWIND!
ALL RIGHT. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HOLD HANDS WITH ME, WHO LOOKS LIKE A COOL GIGOLO?

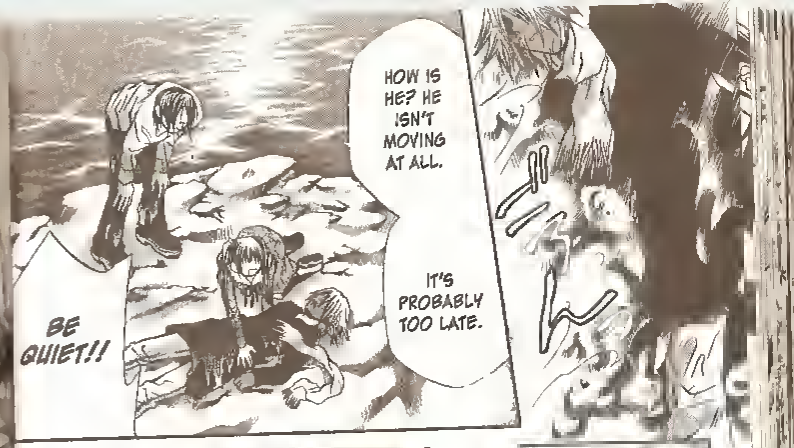
THIS...
THE WOMAN WHO DID THIS TATTOO FOR ME--
?
YEAH.
I'M STILL WAITING FOR "PRETTY SOON."
REMEMBER?
I SAID I'LL START SHOWING YOU MY CARDS PRETTY SOON.
THE UNUSUAL HAIRSTYLE...
A SUBTLE UNEASE
THE UNUSUAL EXPRESSION...
SOMEONE WHO WAS VERY DEAR TO MY HEART--
TODAY'S THE DAY THAT SHE DIED.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ANYTHING?
UH-HUH.
I DO WANT TO, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO ASK ABOUT.
The outfit...
...was for mourning the dead.
THAT'S SAD...
MMM...
I SEE...
MMM.

WHY ARE YOU SO STIFF?
WE CAN GO BACK AND HAVE SOMETHING WARM TO EAT.
ARE YOU COLD? THE WIND'S PRETTY STRONG.
.....
DIDN'T YOU...
...WANT TO GET REVENGE?
LIKE ALZEID...
...WHO CHASES AFTER HIS FATHER'S KILLER?

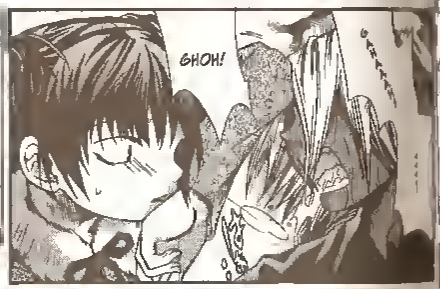
Black for mourning
...the dearly beloved.
AND BESIDES, EVEN IF I WANTED TO GO SEE HER GRAVE, THERE ISN'T ONE
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER GO TO HER GRAVE?
NO, NO. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S MORE ROMANTIC THIS WAY?
HE WOULDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHERE HE BURIED HER.
HE SAID HE BURIED THE BODY ALREADY, SO HE WOULDN'T LET ME HAVE HER BACK.
THE ONE WHO KILLED HER...
TODAY IS THE DAY...
...MY MOST BELOVED WAS MURDERED.

HE JUMPED OFF?!
THAT MEANS ---?
splash
YUP, "SPLASH."
"SPLASH"?
C'MON, IT'S JUST A PECK ON THE CHEEK.
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY SYMPATHY?!
NOTHING IS "JUST" ANYTHING!
YOU CAN'T EVEN SWIM.
JUST SHUT UP!!
WHAT'D YOU GOING TO DO? IT'S NO USE---HE'S ALREADY DEAD
SHUT UP! YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
GET BACK ONSHORE AND WAIT THERE.
Argh.
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE KIND OF GUY WHO'LL TAKE 300 MILES IF I LET YOU HAVE A SINGLE INCH...
NO WAY IN HELL.
BESIDES, THIS IS A SITUATION THAT CALLS FOR HMM?
OH, I WIN.
HUH? WHERE?
THE ONE WHO LOOKS AWAY FIRST LOSES!!
RAHZEL, YOU'RE NOT WILD ANIMALS IN A CONTEST OF WILLS.
THAT PERSON OVER THERE IS LOOKING AT US.
NOTHING, BUT ...
WHAT IS IT?


NGUH...
UUUH....
ONE MORE TIME!
SHOOT, NO CHANGE!!
5
4
6
RAHZEL
1
2
3

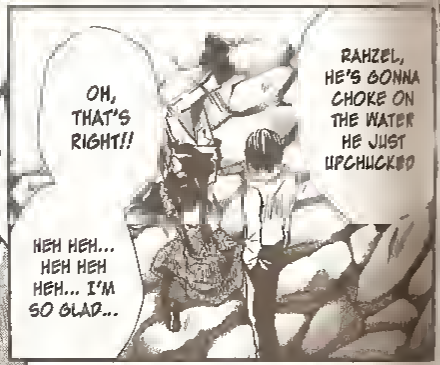

HOW IS HE? HE ISN'T MOVING AT ALL.
IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE.
BE QUIET!!

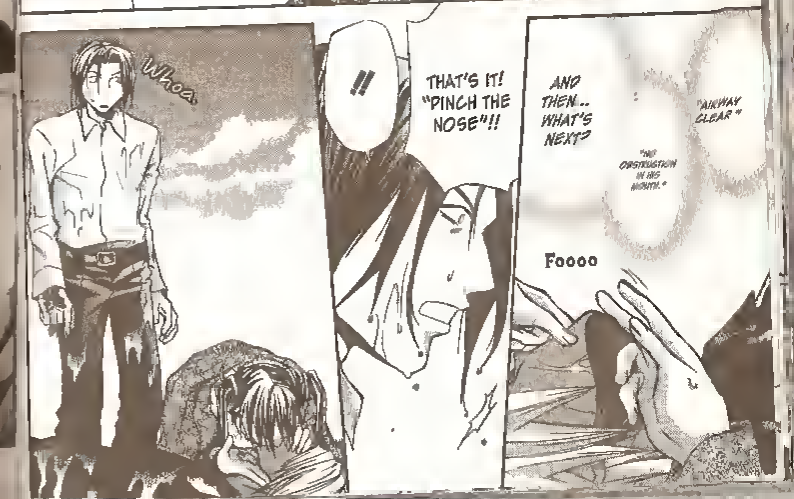
SEE? IT WASN'T TOO LATE.


GHOH!

THIS ISN'T GOOD!!
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND WATCH HIM DIE!!
N-NO!
NOT BREATHING!!
JUST LET HIM GO. HE WANTS TO DIE.
HIS HEART!
GOOD! IT'S STILL BEATING!!

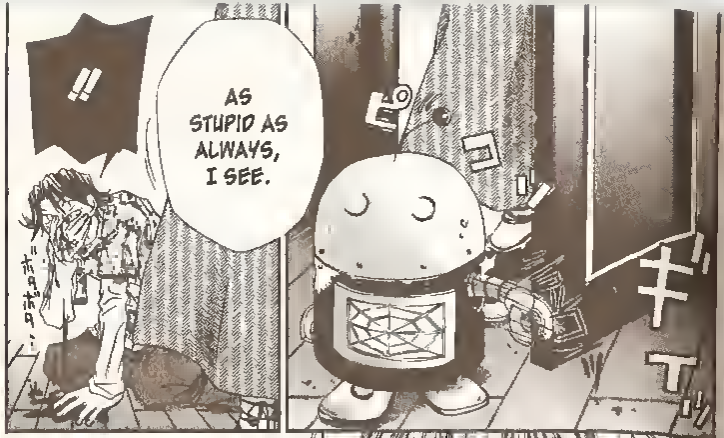
IT'S NOT NOT FAIR, YOU IDIOT!!
ON THE MOUTH...
NO, NO! THIS WAS NOT A KISS!
NOT FAIR.

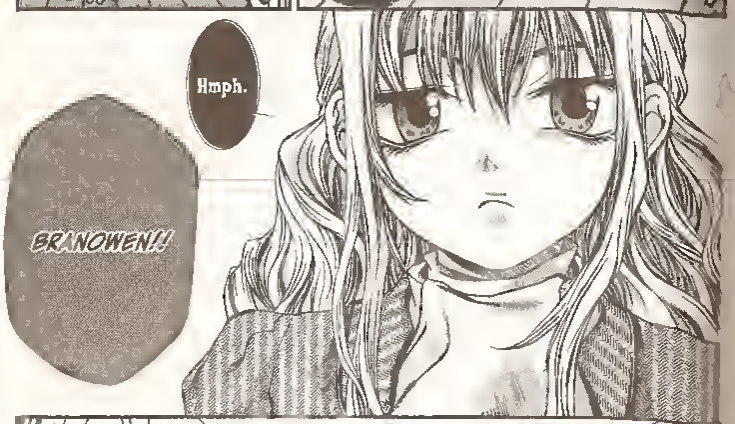

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
RAHZEL, HE'S GONNA CHOKE ON THE WATER HE JUST UPCHUCKED
HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH... I'M SO GLAD...

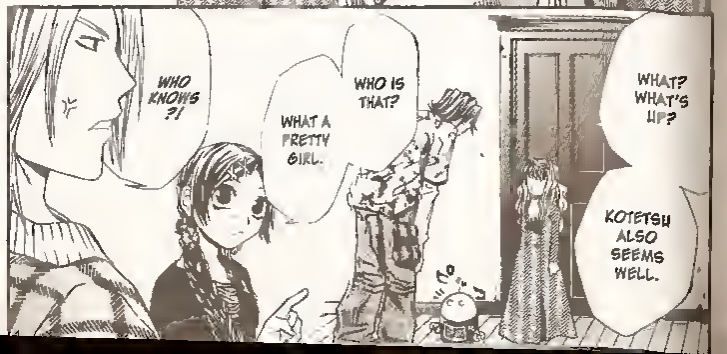

Whoa.
//
THAT'S IT! "PINCH THE NOSE"!!
AND THEN... WHAT'S NEXT?
"AIRWAY CLEAR."
"NO OBSTRUCTION IN HIS MOUTH."
Foooo

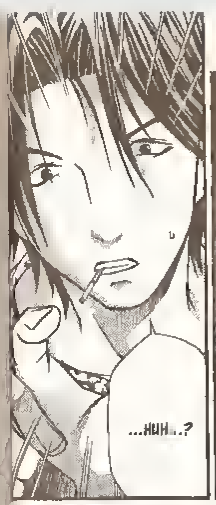
IT'S CALLED MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.
SINCE HE WANTED TO DIE, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET HIM DIE.
DON'T Y THINK HA STRANG LOOKING YOU IS JUS EMBARRA ING?
Maybe a little
REALLY? YOU THINK SO TOO?!
Casually
Just as I Thought
I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.
SO, LET'S SAY YOU DID THE RIGHT THING THEN.
WELL... HE'D BE SO EMBARRASSED TO FIND DOCTORS AND HIS FAMILY...
...WATCHING OVER HIM WHEN HE WAKES UP...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING, AT LEAST
WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM...
mumble mumble
BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING HIM WITH YOU?!
TOLD YA SO.
YOU COULD'VE SHOVED HIM INTO A HOSPITAL OR SOMETHING!!
BESIDES, NOW THAT HE'S ALIVE AGAIN...
...HE CAN HAVE ANOTHER GO AT IT, IF HE DECIDES THAT'S WHAT HE REALLY WANTS.
WELL, YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
...I THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE ACTED ON AN IMPULSE.
THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME AFFECTION...
...COMFORT AND CHASTISEMENT...
I'M GLAD YOU GOT INVOLVED IN MY BUSINESS.
RAHZEL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME MY CHILD?
BUT YOU SEE,
FOR ME...
TO A LITTLE CHILD WHO THOUGHT...
...THE ONLY THING LEFT WAS DEATH...

BUT MAN, WHAT A LUXURY...
...TO BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO LIVE OR DIE.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
EH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!
OKAY, I'LL DO WHAT I WANT!
HEY, BAROQUE-HEAD...
SO, IF SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, DID YOU .?
Sorry
NO, I HAVEN'T TOLD HER YET. I FORGOT
UH...
I MEAN.
THE PERSON...
...WHO GAVE ME LIFE...
I'M SORRY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS SAYING. FORGET IT.
UH... UH-HUH..
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY.
YOU CAN DIE TOO, WHENEVER YOU LIKE, CAN'T YOU?
I CAN NOW...
I JUST. WELL...
I DIDN'T WANT TO WATCH ANYONE DIE.
THAT'S ALL.
REALLY.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO...

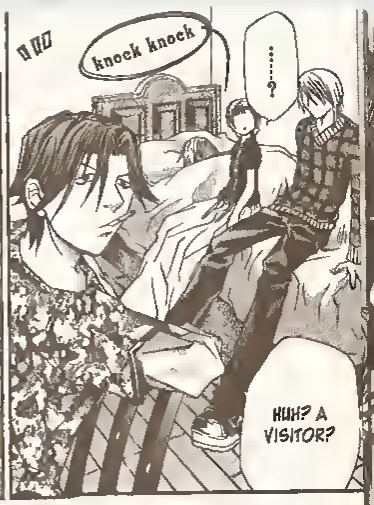

!!
AS STUPID AS ALWAYS, I SEE.

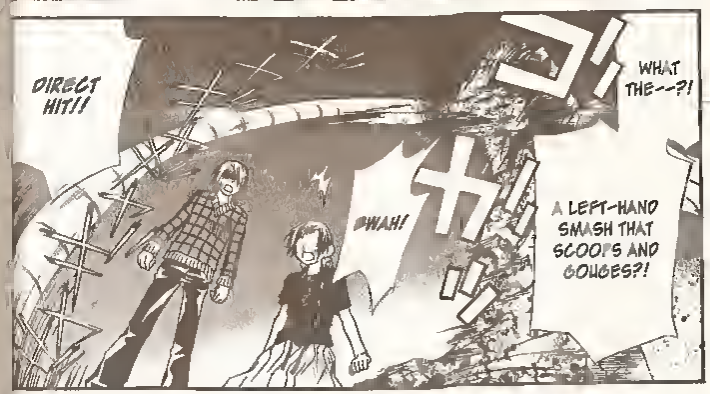

Hmph.
BRANOWEN!!

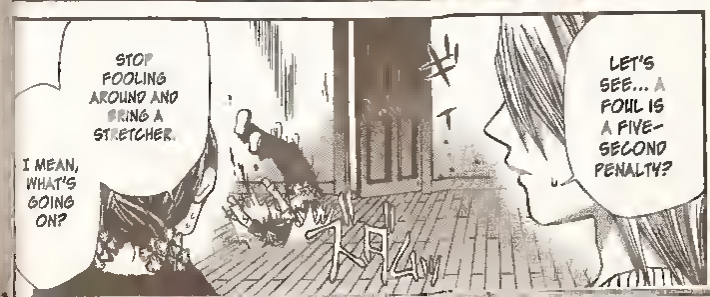

WHO KNOWS?!
WHO IS THAT?
WHAT A PRETTY GIRL.
WHAT? WHAT'S UP?
KOTETSU ALSO SEEMS WELL.


...HUH..?

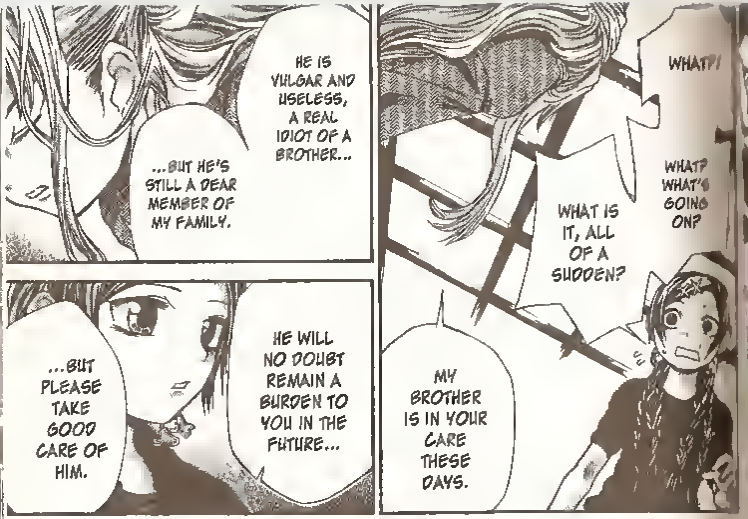
YES, WHO IS IT?

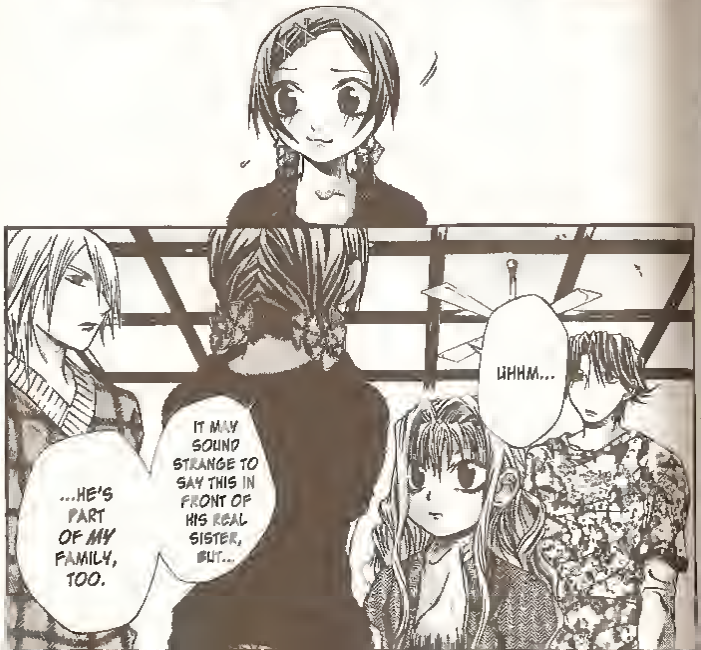

knock knock
?
HUH? A VISITOR?

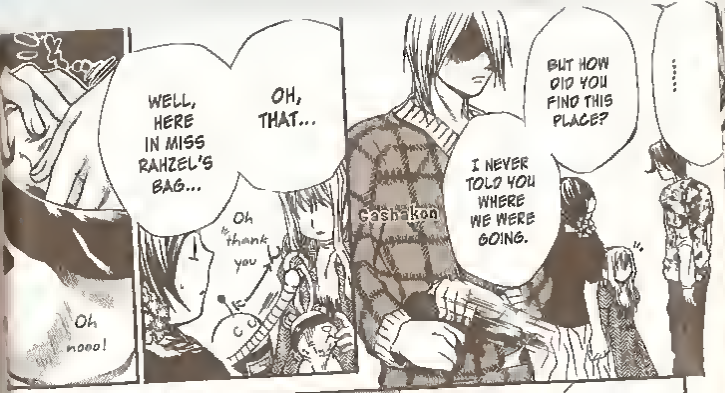

DIRECT HIT!!
WHAT THE--?!
A LEFT-HAND SMASH THAT SCOOPS AND GOUGES?!
@WAH!

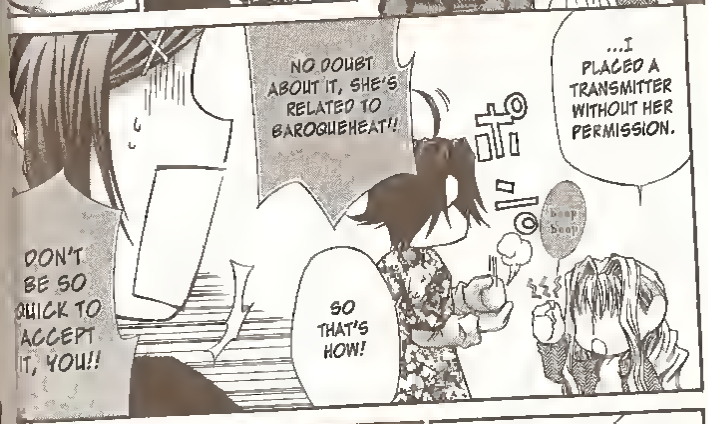

STOP FOOLING AROUND AND BRING A STRETCHER.
I MEAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?
LET'S SEE... A FOUL IS A FIVE-SECOND PENALTY?

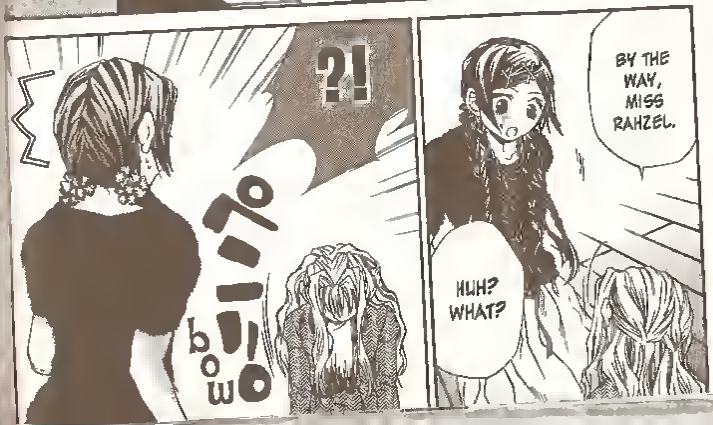
?!
?
RAHZEL, RIGHT?
YOU SEEM TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH NOW.
SHE HELPED OUT WITH THE ANGEL TEXT THING.
IT'S AN UNPLEASANT BRAT. BAROQUEHEAT'S SISTER OR SOMETHING.
HIS LITTLE SISTER?!
...SO YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T REMEMBER HER.
(which means I have nothing to do with this)
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS AT THE TIME...
No way...
YEAH. YOU COULDN'T HELP WORTH SHIT.
PLEASE, NO NEED FOR THAT. IT WAS AN AREA OUTSIDE MY EXPERTISE...
...SO I'M AFRAID I WASN'T OF MUCH HELP.
W-WELL THEN...
IT SEEMS THAT I'M INDEBTED TO YOU.
.....
WHAT?
OH, IT'S CALLED KOTETSU. HOW CUTE!! ♡
WH-WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
NOW BEHAVE YOURSELF, KOTETSU.
LASER WOUNDS CANNOT BE HEALED.
DON'T LET IT FOOL YOU, RAHZEL. IT'S AN ENEMY!!


HE IS VULGAR AND USELESS, A REAL IDIOT OF A BROTHER...
...BUT HE'S STILL A DEAR MEMBER OF MY FAMILY.
WHAT?!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS IT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
MY BROTHER IS IN YOUR CARE THESE DAYS.
HE WILL NO DOUBT REMAIN A BURDEN TO YOU IN THE FUTURE...
...BUT PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

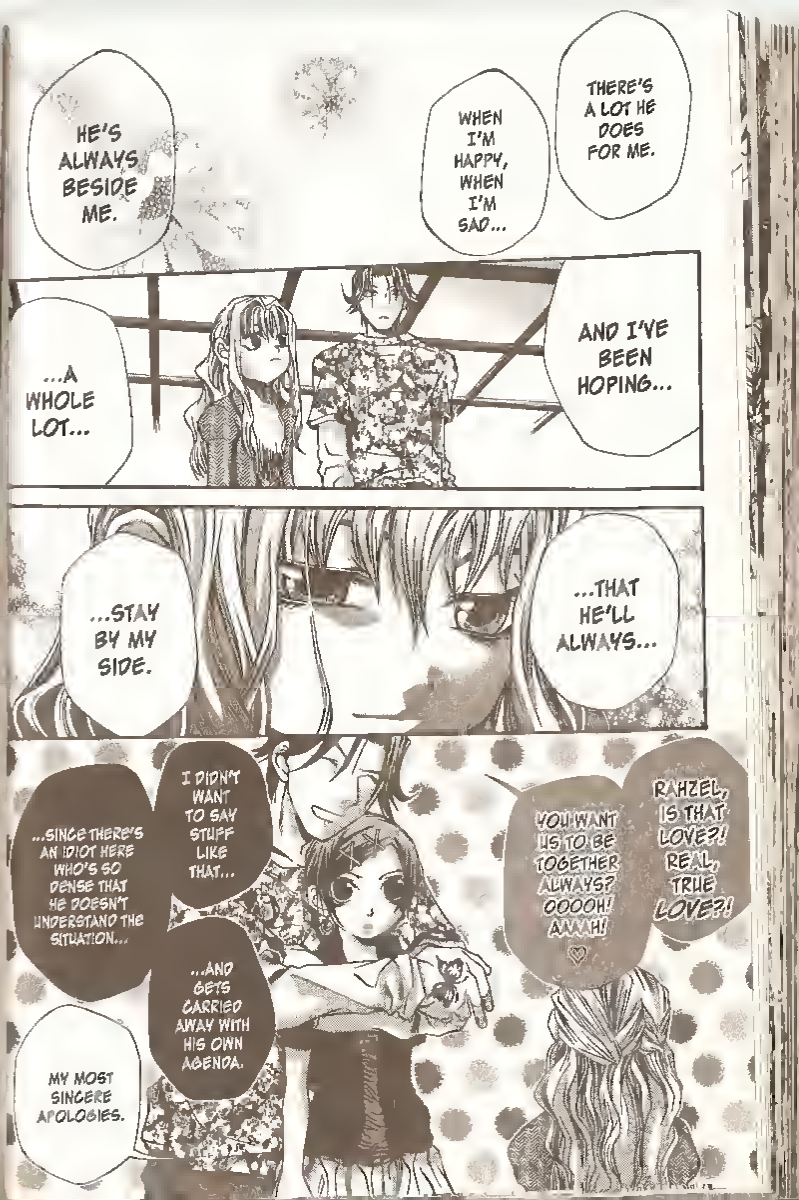

UHHM...
IT MAY SOUND STRANGE TO SAY THIS IN FRONT OF HIS REAL SISTER, BUT...
...HE'S PART OF MY FAMILY, TOO.


OH, THAT...
WELL, HERE IN MISS RAHZEL'S BAG...
Oh, thank you
Oh noo!
Cashakon
I NEVER TOLD YOU WHERE WE WERE GOING.
BUT HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
.....


...I PLACED A TRANSMITTER WITHOUT HER PERMISSION.
Beep Beep
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, SHE'S RELATED TO BAROQUEHEAT!!
SO THAT'S HOW!
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO ACCEPT IT, YOU!!


BY THE WAY, MISS RAHZEL.
HUH? WHAT?
?!
bowl

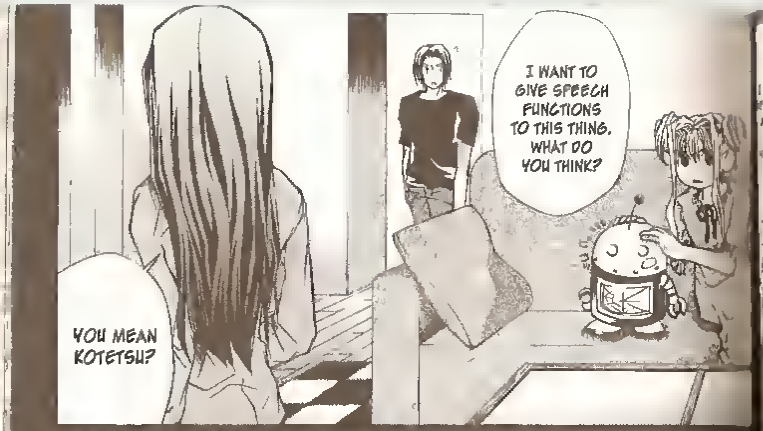
THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORMALITY.
JUST CALL ME BRANOWEN.
I SHALL DO THE SAME WITH YOU.
TAKE CARE, RAHZEL.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU HAVE SOME OTHER BUSINESS HERE, BRAN?
THAT MADE YOU COME ALL THIS WAY?
MY BUSINESS IS DONE HERE.
I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
HOWEVER, IF YOU WISH TO SEE ME A LITTLE LONGER...
YES, OF COURSE, MILADY.
...YOU MAY SEE ME OFF.
COME, NOW.
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY, MISS BRANOWEN?


THERE'S A LOT HE DOES FOR ME.
WHEN I'M HAPPY, WHEN I'M SAD...
HE'S ALWAYS BESIDE ME.
AND I'VE BEEN HOPING...
...A WHOLE LOT...
...THAT HE'LL ALWAYS...
...STAY BY MY SIDE.
RAHZEL, IS THAT LOVE?! REAL, TRUE LOVE?!
YOU WANT US TO BE TOGETHER ALWAYS? OOOOH! AWAH! ♡
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT...
...SINCE THERE'S AN IDIOT HERE WHO'S SO DENSE THAT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION...
...AND GETS CARRIED AWAY WITH HIS OWN AGENDA.
MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES.

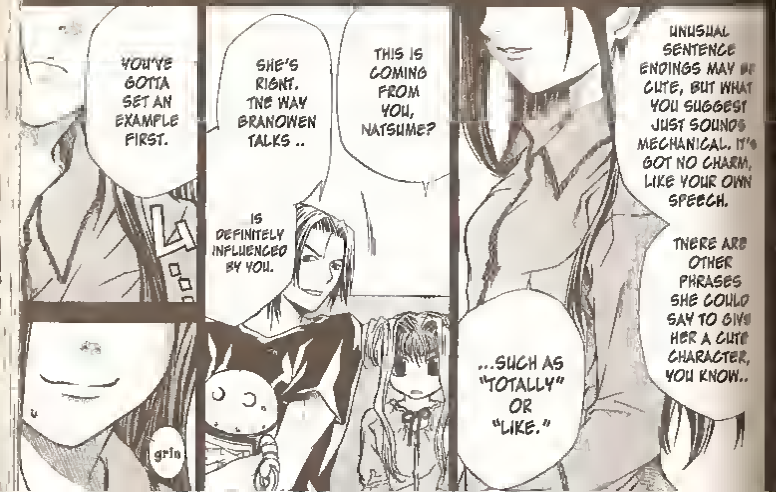
DON'T RUB IT IN. I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS TO RAHZEL SOON.
SORRY, BIG SIS.
IT'S A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW, THOUGH I CAN HANDLE IT, YOU KNOW.
YEAH. LITTLE BY LITTLE.
...YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO, IS SHE?
SHE'S SOMEONE
SO, YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ME.
YES. NOW, REFLECT ON YOUR CONDUCT.
EVERY YEAR, YOU'RE SO DIFFICULT.
YOU ALWAYS GO WILD THIS TIME OF YEAR.
YOU TAKE IT OUT ON PROPERTY, OTHER PEOPLE, EVEN YOURSELF.
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE MADE AN UNNECESSARY TRIP.
?
BUT SHE SEEMED...
...KINDA SAD...
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE A "LITTLE" SISTER?
ぱたん
SHE COMPLETELY IGNORED ME!!
IT SEEMS SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.
WHO THE HELL KNOWS?! SHE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME!
AND I DON'T LIKE HER EITHER!
WHAT DID YOU DO, ALZEID?
GROW UP, WILL YOU?
SHE SEEMED SO GROWN-UP.
GROWN-UP? SHE'S JUST COCKY.
BUT...
?
BAROQUEHEAT SEEMED MORE LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER.

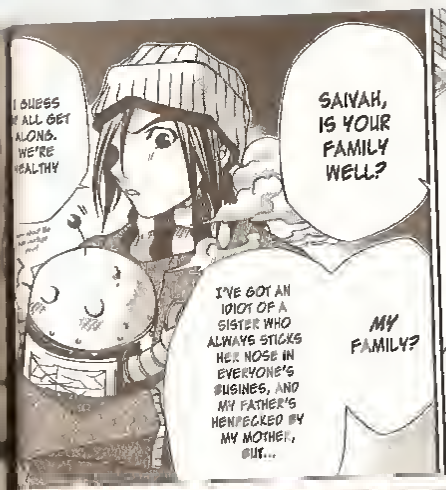
I'M JUST TRYING TO BUILD A NEW LIFE FOR MYSELF, SOMETHING IN A DIFFERENT FORM.
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT THINGS WERE LIKE WHEN SHE WAS AROUND.
I, TOO, HAVE SOMEONE I EAT WITH AND SLEEP WITH.
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY.
YOU, TOO SHOULD BE FREE TO FOLLOW ANOTHER PATH OF YOUR OWN CHOICE.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT US, OR HER.
BY THE WAY!!
Oh?
THE SAME, EH?
YES.
.....
AND HOW IS KIARA?
WELL, IN ANY CASE...
WHEN I'M WITH RAHZEL, I'M HAPPY.
I SEE.
IT'S A LITTLE PUZZLING, EVEN TO ME.
I'M STILL ALL MIXED UP AND A MESS INSIDE...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT ANYMORE.
I'M TALKING NONSENSE, AREN'T I?
BY THE WAY, I HEAR OUR ELDEST BROTHER HAS A FAMILY NOW.
WHAT? SERA ACTUALLY SETTLED DOWN?!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
LISTEN, BAROQUE-HEAT...
WE LIVE TOO LONG...
...TO STAY IN THE SAME RUT FOREVER.

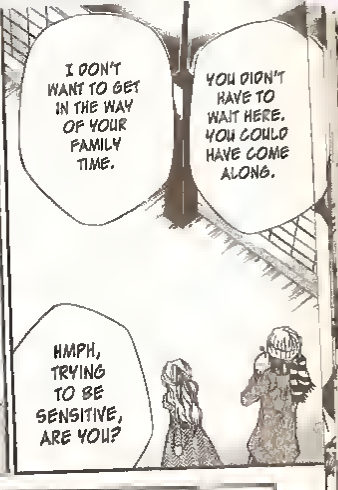
NO WAY. I DON'T WANT A JINX NEAR ME. GOOD RIDDANCE, THEN.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF
GOODBYE, THEN
AH.
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT WHAT YOU IMAGINE IS FAR FROM THE TRUTH.
HE IS A MAN, BUT HE'S MORE LIKE A SERVANT.
I'LL KILL HIM!!
SOMEONE YOU EAT AND SLEEP WITH? A MAN? WITH THE IDOL OF OUR FAMILY?
WHICH PIECE OF SHIT IS HE?
WHO IS THIS PIG?
HERE OR BACK HOME, YOU'RE STILL THE BIGGEST PIG OF THEM ALL.
ALL RIGHT THEN, PRINCESS.
HERE. COME, KOTETSU.
DON'T BE SO LOUD. IT'S EMBARRASSING.
AND DON'T CALL ME THAT.
WELCOME HOME, BOSS.
I GOT TIRED OF WAITING!!
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS FAR ENOUGH
ALREADY? CAN'T YOU STAY A WHILE LONGER?
WELL, WHEN RAHZEL GETS TIRED OF YOU, I SHALL COME TO YOUR SIDE TO COMFORT YOU.
JUST BE A LITTLE NICER TO LITTLE BOY AL, WOULD YOU?
HOW BORING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
NO WAY. I DON'T LIKE HIS FACE.
I HATE IT.
YOU DON'T LIKE--?

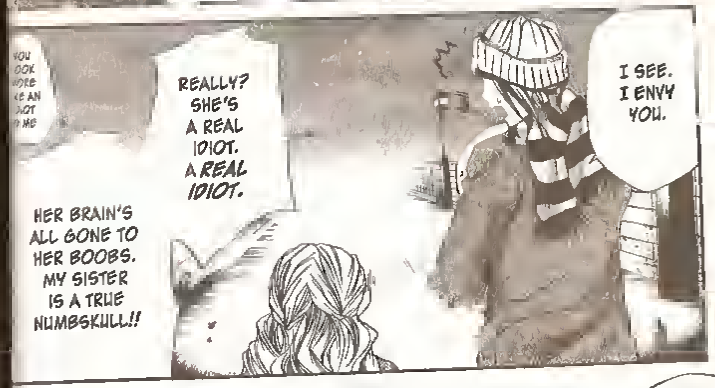

I WANT TO GIVE SPEECH FUNCTIONS TO THIS THING. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU MEAN KOTETSU?

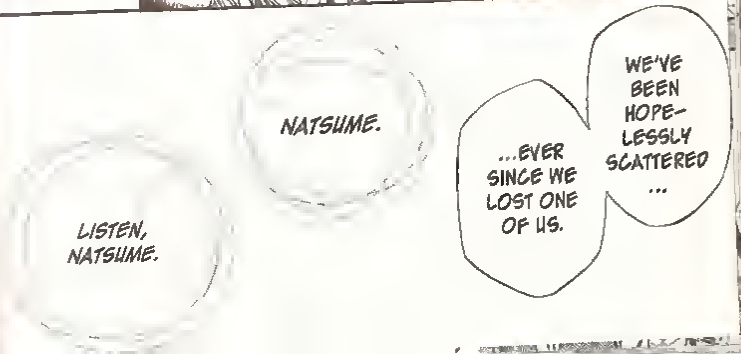
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT, BRAN.
...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TERRIBLY CUTE.
YEAH. IF SHE ENDED HER SENTENCES WITH "YES, ROBO" OR "NO, ROBO"..


YOU'VE GOTTA SET AN EXAMPLE FIRST.
SHE'S RIGHT. THE WAY BRANOWEN TALKS .. IS DEFINITELY INFLUENCED BY YOU.
THIS IS COMING FROM YOU, NATSUME?
UNUSUAL SENTENCE ENDINGS MAY BE CUTE, BUT WHAT YOU SUGGEST JUST SOUNDS MECHANICAL. IT'S GOT NO CHARM, LIKE YOUR OWN SPEECH.
THERE ARE OTHER PHRASES SHE COULD SAY TO GIVE HER A CUTE CHARACTER, YOU KNOW..
...SUCH AS "TOTALLY" OR "LIKE."
grin

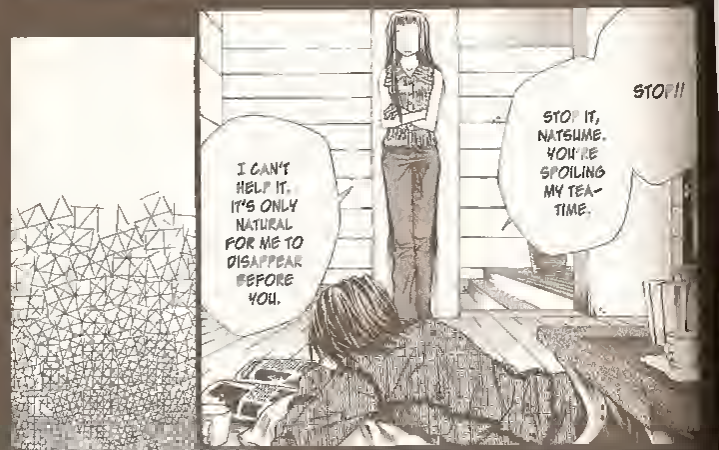

I GUESS WE ALL GET ALONG. WE'RE WEALTHY
SAIYAH, IS YOUR FAMILY WELL?
I'VE GOT AN IDIOT OF A SISTER WHO ALWAYS STICKS HER NOSE IN EVERYONE'S BUSINES, AND MY FATHER'S HENPECKED BY MY MOTHER, BUT...
MY FAMILY?

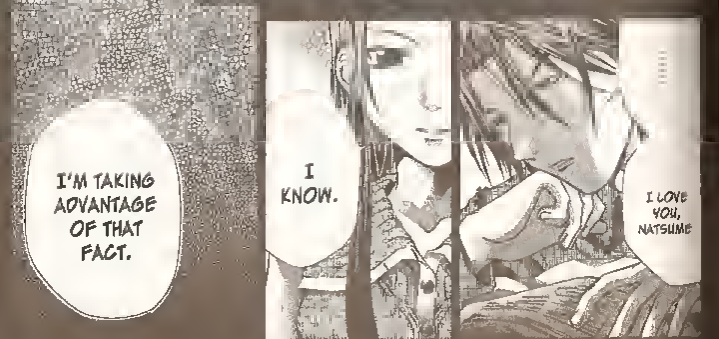

I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR FAMILY TIME.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT HERE. YOU COULD HAVE COME ALONG.
HMPH, TRYING TO BE SENSITIVE, ARE YOU?

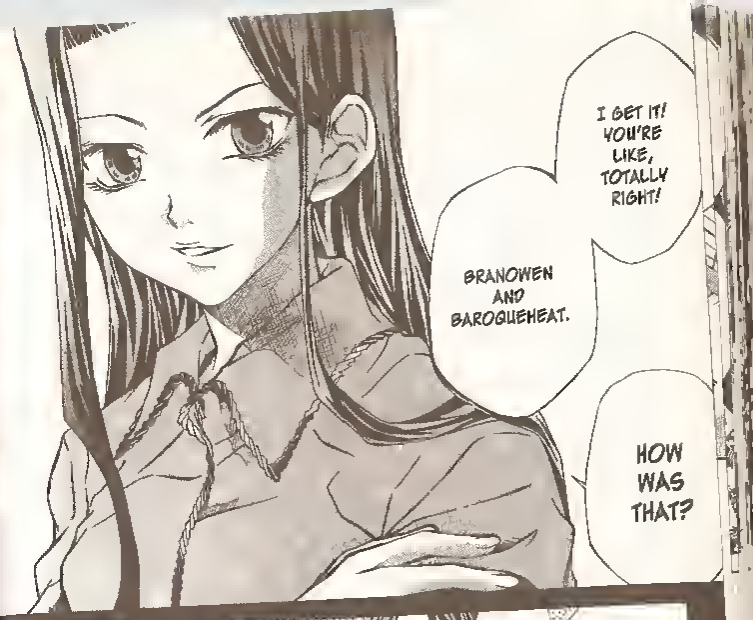

YOU LOOK MORE LIKE AN IDIOT TO ME
REALLY? SHE'S A REAL IDIOT. A REAL IDIOT.
I SEE. I ENVY YOU.
HER BRAIN'S ALL GONE TO HER BOOBS. MY SISTER IS A TRUE NUMBSKULL!!


NATSUME.
LISTEN, NATSUME.
...EVER SINCE WE LOST ONE OF US.
WE'VE BEEN HOPE-LESSLY SCATTERED ...

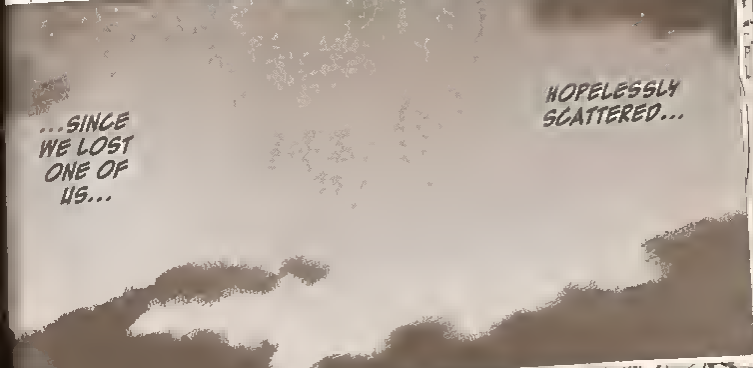
LISTEN, BAROQUE-HEAT.
AFTER I DIE--

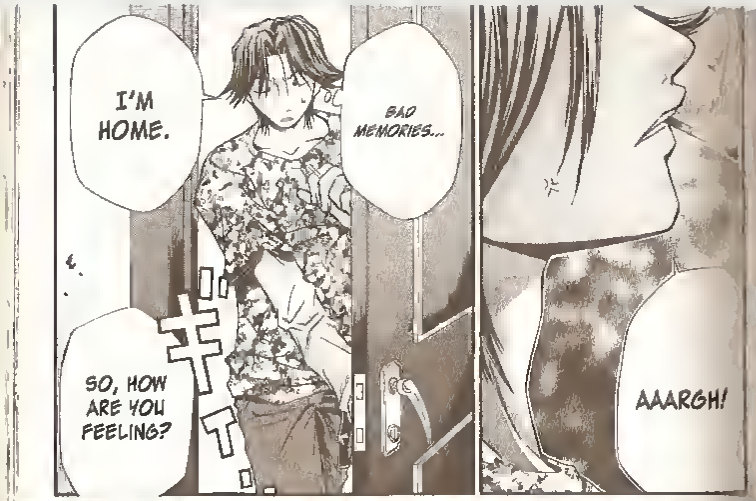

I CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR ME TO DISAPPEAR BEFORE YOU.
STOP IT, NATSUME. YOU'RE SPOILING MY TEA-TIME.
STOP!!

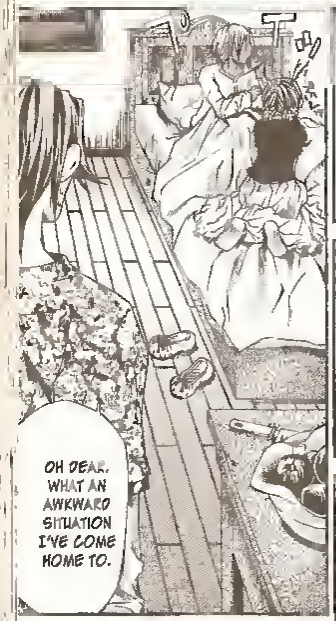

I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT.
I KNOW.
I LOVE YOU, NATSUME

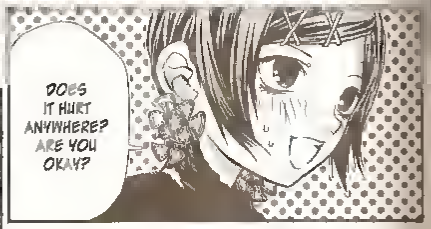

I GET IT! YOU'RE LIKE, TOTALLY RIGHT!
BRANOWEN AND BAROQUEHEAT.
HOW WAS THAT?

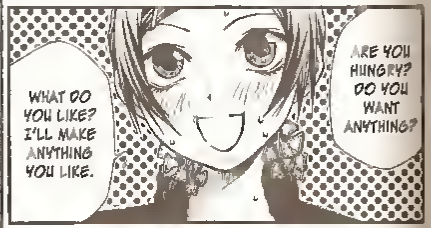
DON'T TRY TOO HARD.
Better yet, just give up.
YEAH. I DON'T LIKE IT.
But I'll try hard!
YA THINK?
UMM, VERY AWKWARD.

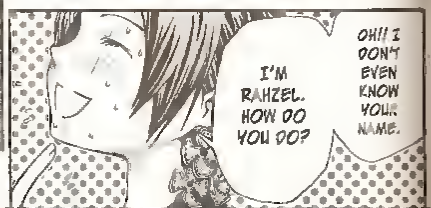

...SINCE WE LOST ONE OF US...
HOPELESSLY SCATTERED...











Chapter 35: One Cold Winter Day Part 2: Ravages of the Chanting Voice

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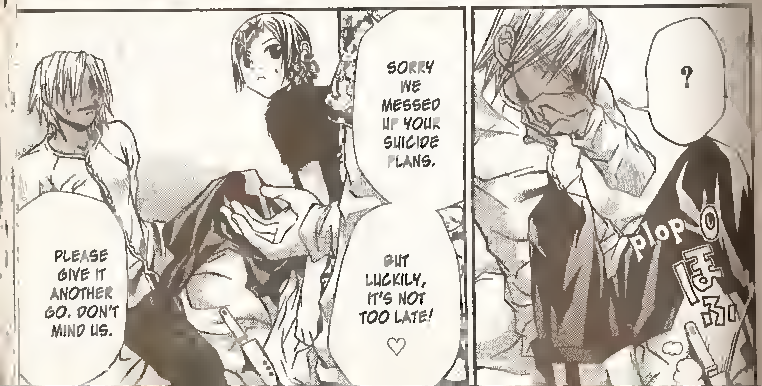
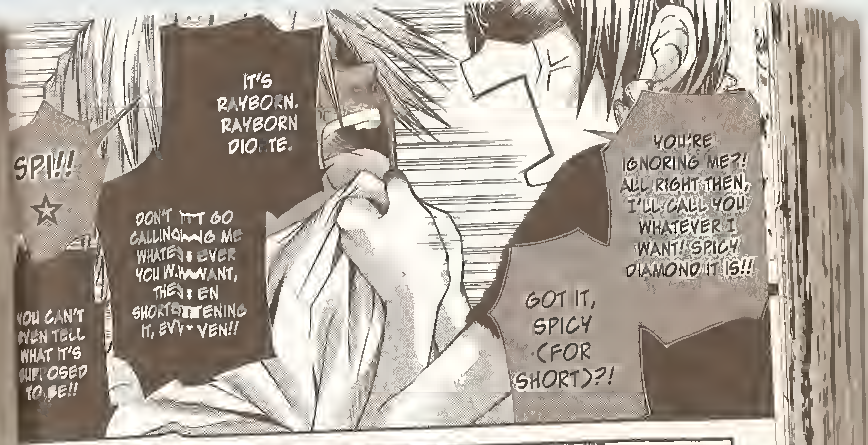
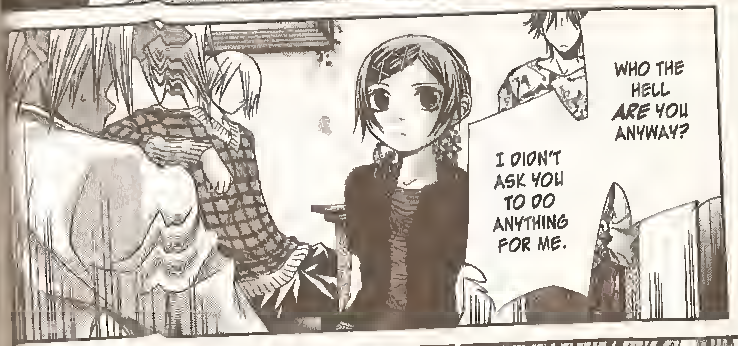
HI-YAH!
!!
"JUST"?!
SORRY, I JUST... HE GOT ON MY NERVES.
BAROQUE-HEAT?!


SORRY WE MESSED UP YOUR SUICIDE PLANS.
BUT LUCKILY, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! ♡
PLEASE GIVE IT ANOTHER GO. DON'T MIND US.
?
plop


SPI!!
IT'S RAYBORN. RAYBORN DIO. TE.
DON'T ITT GO CALLING ME WHATE ; EVER YOU W.WANT, THEN ; EN SHORTE TENING IT, EVY VEN!!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE!!
YOU'RE IGNORING ME?! ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER I WANT! SPICY DIAMOND IT IS!!
GOT IT, SPICY (FOR SHORT)?!


WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY?
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING FOR ME.

ARE YOU HAPPY THAT I'M ALIVE?
SAY SOMETHING, YOU DO-GOODERS!!

YOU SEE, TODAY IS SAROSUE-HEAT'S--
RAHZEL?
I'M SO STARVED, I'M ABOUT TO CROAK.
ANYWAY, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
OH WELL, ONE CHANGE OF CLOTHES ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHAT WERE YOU OUT ON THE TOWN FOR ALL DAY THEN?
I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH SPICY, I FORGOT TO GO TO THE STORE!!
SHOOT!! DINNER!
WELL, NO. IT'S JUST THAT... WELL...
I SEE. SO, IT'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T TELL ME.
Shhh.
WAIT, SPICY (FOR SHORT)!!
I'M NOT SPICY!!!
DAMN YOU! YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART!!
OH DEAR! YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO IT? OR MAYBE YOU CAN'T?
KIDS THESE DAYS, ALL TALK AND NO ACTION.
YOU... ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?!
おろ
おろおろ
おろおろ
YOU AIN'T GOT THE GUTS TO DO IT, DO YOU?
THERE HE GOES.
OH...
How rude.
Oh dear.
OH, AND HE LEFT HIS OWN CLOTHES HERE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THEM?
THAT'S NOT THE REAL PROBLEM!!
WHAT!?! I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED FAMILIAR!!
WAIT, THOSE WERE LITTLE BOY AL'S CLOTHES.

I...
I SNEEZED LIKE SOME MANGA CHARACTER...
Sniff
HAAH-CHOOO!
HE'LL GET COLD AND'LL COME BACK IN NO TIME AT ALL.
HE FORGOT HIS COAT
ALZEID...
HE'S POUTING.
WELL, YOU GUYS ENJOY YOURSELVES.
I GET IT. IT'S JUST FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SPECIAL TO YOU.
WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY.
AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
THAT WAS...
...A STUPID THING TO SAY.
WHEN DID I BECOME SUCH AN IMMATURE HUMAN BEING?
WHOSE FAULT IS IT ANYWAY? MINE?!
IT IS MINE!! BUT SO WHAT!?!
DAMMIT!! HOW COME I'VE GOTTA BE THE ONE WHO'S OUT IN THE COLD LIKE THIS?!
IT'S COLD!! IT'S COLD IN MORE THAN ONE SENSE OF THE WORD!
An example of an immature adult.
I WONDER IF HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.
HOW SELFISH IS THAT?!
HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE PART OF THE GROUP, BUT HE ALSO DOESN'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT.
HOW ABOUT WHEN I MET RAHZEL?
WAS I ALREADY THIS WAY WHEN I MET BAROQUEHEAT?
.....
WELL, YOU GUYS ENJOY YOURSELVES.
I GET IT. IT'S JUST FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SPECIAL TO YOU.
I SEE.
SO, LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE'LL BE BACK SOON ANYWAY.
REALLY?
WELL, I'M ALWAYS WITH HIM, SO...
YOU'RE QUITE OBSERVANT.

WHEN I MET YOU...
...WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS I?

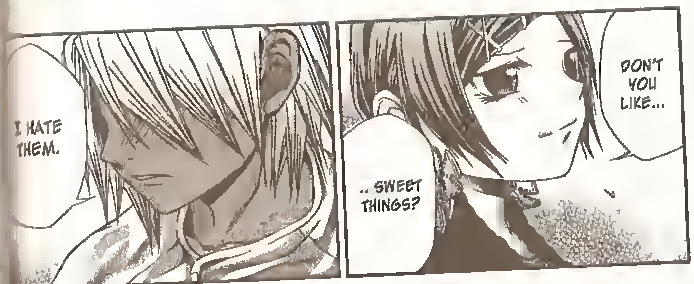
Silently
OH...
REALLY...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK...
...WHY I TRIED TO KILL MYSELF?
I'M NOT INTERESTED
GYAAH!!
Ugh
WHAT D'YOU MEAN, "GYAAH"? I'M NOT A GHOST OR SOMETHING.
BY THE WAY, THE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING NOW...
THEY'RE MINE, YOU KNOW.
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NOTHING.
OH...
OKAY...
STOP IT.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO WATCH A MALE STRIPPER.
SH-SHUT UP! I'LL TAKE OFF THESE DAMN CLOTHES RIGHT HERE AND NOW..
もが
もが
WHA--
WHAT IS IT NOW?
Grrr
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY? WHY D'YOU MAKE ME SO UNEASY?
YOU SHOULD MEASURE THE CAPACITY OF YOUR PATIENCE.
IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT THREE MILLILITERS!!
WHAT? JUST THAT? YOU'VE GOT A ZERO I.Q., MAN!
FLICKER AND GLOW AND MAKE ME HAPPY, WHY DON'T YOU?!
CHANGE! SING AND DANCE!!
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!!
FOR WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

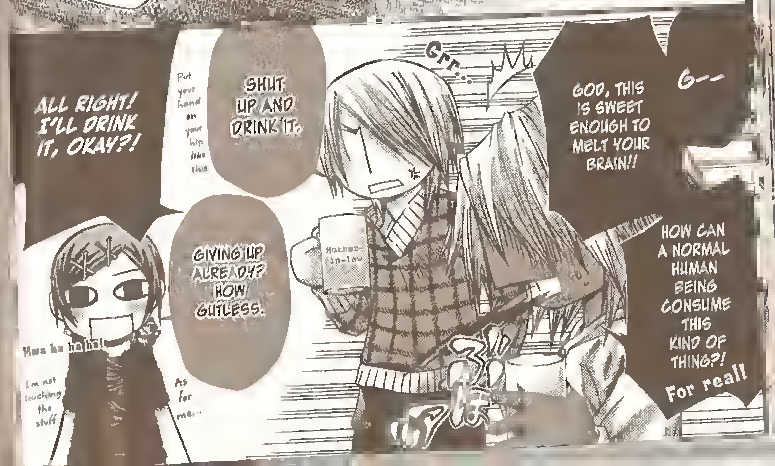
I FIGURED YOU'D BE BACK ABOUT NOW, SO I MADE COCOA.
I PUT TOHS OF SUGAR IN IT, JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT, ALZEID.
AFTER YOU HAVE YOUR COCOA, WE'RE GOING OUT TO EAT.
THE RESTAURANTS WILL BE CLOSING SOON.
HMPH.
HERE, YOU TOO.
...YOU'LL BE COMING WITH US, WON'T YOU?
ALZEID ...
.....
Hmph
NO
HUH?
LET'S GO BACK.
THIS IS STUPID.
WE'RE DRYING YOUR CLOTHES.
WE DON'T WANT THEM.
PUT THEM BACK ON AND GO HOME.
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU COME TOO.
?!
WELCOME HOME!!
URGH.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.

Chapter 36: The Empowered Proposition--Part 1
Ryo Go the Game Continues

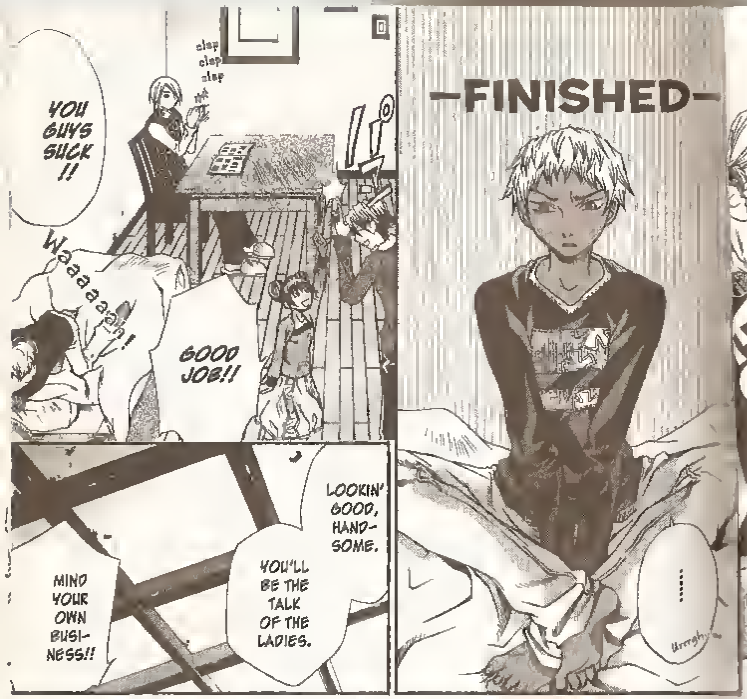
Dazzle

Minari Endoh

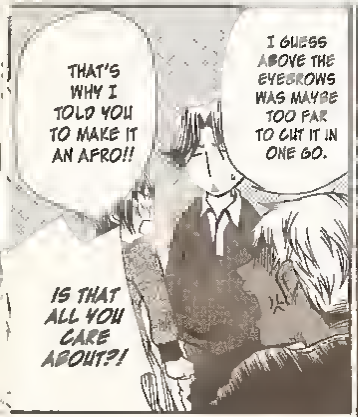



ALL RIGHT! I'LL DRINK IT, OKAY?!
Put your hand on your hip like this
SHUT UP AND DRINK IT.
Grr...
GOD, THIS IS SWEET ENOUGH TO MELT YOUR BRAIN!!
G--
Mua ha hahaha!
I'm not touching the stuff
GIVING UP ALREADY? HOW GUILESS.
As for me...
HOW CAN A NORMAL HUMAN BEING CONSUME THIS KIND OF THING?! For real!

NOW, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR HAIR DONE TODAY?
LET'S SEE.
KINDA CHIC, POP, AND SENSITIVE, PLEASE.
WELL, THAT'S A MOUTHFUL.
SO, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WITH VERVE, ARE YOU?
YOU MUST BE A CONNOISSEUR.
.....
WHICH COUNTRY'S LANGUAGE ARE YOU GUYS SPEAKING?
SINCE BAROQUEHEAD SAID HE'D CUT MY HAIR.
...I THOUGHT WE COULD AT LEAST MAKE THE CONVERSATION SALON-LIKE.
"SALON DU HEAT."
SPEEDY, THOROUGH, AND WITH JUST A LITTLE BIT OF HARASSMENT--THAT'S OUR MOTTO.
MAAAN, NOW I'M ALL IN THE MOOD.
LITTLE BOY AL, YOU WANT A HAIRCUT TOO, DON'T YOU?
WHAT'S THIS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?
gasp
SLEEP-TALKING SHOULD BE DONE IN ONE'S SLEEP.
BESIDES, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A HAIRCUT MUCH MORE THAN ME?
YOU DON'T NEED THAT LAST ONE...
HUH. YOU'RE CLEVER WITH YOUR HANDS.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY IT TAKES BUT A MINUTE TO TRIM THE ENDS!
THERE YOU GO. ALL DONE.
hoarse voice


clap clap clap
YOU GUYS SUCK !!
Waaaaaaa!
GOOD JOB!!
LOOKIN' GOOD, HANDSOME.
YOU'LL BE THE TALK OF THE LADIES.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!

-FINISHED-
.....
Hrrrgh...


THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO MAKE IT AN AFRO!!
I GUESS ABOVE THE EYEBROWS WAS MAYBE TOO FAR TO CUT IT IN ONE GO.
IS THAT ALL YOU CARE ABOUT?!

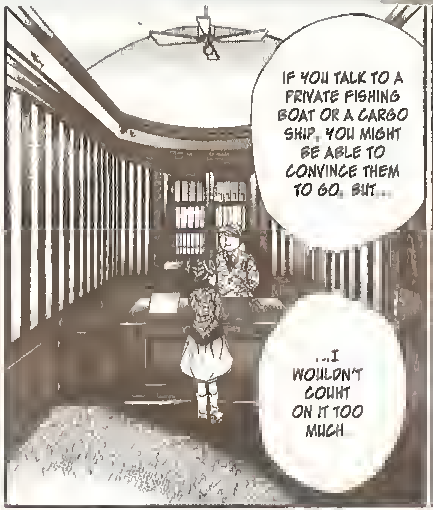
RAYBORN...
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?

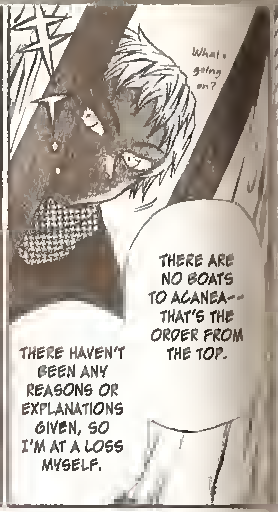
Eeeyaaa!
HUH? NO, STOP--
STOP! STOP IT!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BEESWA--
NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS.
RIGHT! IT'S ALSO UNSANITARY.
WH-WHAT ?!
RAYBORN DEAR, YOUR HAIR..
FRANKLY NOW, ISN'T IT RATHER ANNOYING?
Please stand by..
Pastoral scenery
THAT WAS A LONG, FIERCE BATTLE, RAHZEL.
YES WELL DONE, BAROQUEHEAT
IT WAS ONLY YOUR HELP THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE.
HAVE A HOT TOWEL
OH, YOU'RE JUST TOO KIND.

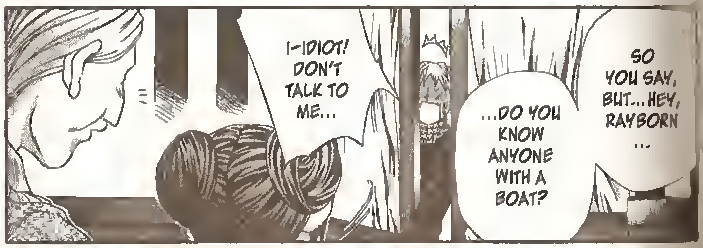
"YOUR LUCKY COLOR IS PINK. YOUR LUCKY ITEM IS A BOWL. YOUR LUCKY NUMBER IS 666, AND FOR YOUR CHOICE OF FISH, TRY LOACHES."
TO YOU WHO WERE GIVEN A PAIR OF SCISSORS BY YOUR BOYFRIEND--THIS GIFT MEANS, "IF I TWO-TIME, YOU CAN CUT OFF MY YOU-KNOW-WHAT." CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE FOUND TRUE LOVE.
NO WAY! WHO'S THE BOYFRIEND, ME?!
BRING ME THE STUPID FORTUNETELLER RIGHT NOW!!
HUH? REALLY?
SEE, IT SAYS HERE IN THIS MAGAZINE THAT LITTLE BOY AL'S UNLUCKY ITEM OF THE DAY IS A MIRROR
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ.
SHOULD I READ THE REST?
STOP TALKING LIKE YOU GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ME!
UGH, I FREAKIN' GIVE UP!!
...THE MOISTURE IN THE HAIR GETS STALE AND TERRIBLY SMELLY.
DON'T DIS THE AFRO, BRO.
SINCE THEY NEVER DRY COMPLETELY, EVEN WITH A BLOW DRYER...
I'll take as many of 'em down with me as I can!
BUT ISN'T IT UNFAIR THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS HIS HAIR CUT?
HEY, MR. ALZEID?
Looking down
ARE YOU AND I...
...ON EQUAL TERMS?
Shiver shiver
I...I'M SORRY...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S A JOKE, A JOKE.
HERE, GIVE ME THAT. YOU WANT ME TO CUT MY HAIR TOO, RIGHT?
NOOOO! STOP! AT LEAST LOOK AT THE MIRROR OR SOMETHING!!
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED THIS TIME.
I'M WORRIED, ALZEID!
C'mon!
Not one!
DO IT, AND TRUE HAPPINESS WILL BE YOURS!!
QUICKLY, TAKE THESE 666 LOACHES IN THIS EXTRA-LARGE PINK BOWL AND SHOVE THEM DOWN YOUR THROAT AND INTO YOUR STOMACH!!
WHAT WORRIES ME IS HOW YOU CAME UP WITH THAT SO QUICKLY!
BAROQUEHEAT!! DON'T PICK SOMETHING SHE CAN MAKE COME TRUE!!
UGH, THAT'S GROSSING ME OUT!

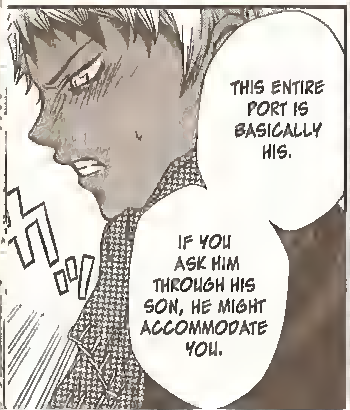
I TOLD YOU NO!
SHUT UP. YOUR WISHES ARE OF NO CONCERN TO ME!!
OH WELL. WOULD YOU SWEEP THE FLOOR THEN?
I'LL TAKE RAYBORN SHOPPING
WH-WHY ME?
I'M NOT GOING.
HAIR LIKE THIS INDICATES YOUR VISION SHOULD BE BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS.
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO KEEP BLOCKING YOUR FIELD OF VISION TOO?
FINE, I'LL STOP. IT'S STUPID.
BESIDES, THERE'S NO REASON I SHOULD PLAY ALONG.
WHAT?! I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD!
SHUT UP.
Come, come!
WELCOME TO HEAT'S BARBER SHOP!
WHAT'S THIS? YOU WANT TO CUT IT AFTER ALL?
OH?
YOU HAVE...
...SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FACE...
HMMM...
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE THAT FACE...
.. IT'S THE ONE YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE
WHY NOT LEARN TO LIKE IT?
...I DIDN'T...
...ASK TO BE BORN WITH THIS FACE.

YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING JUST LIKE MR. DIORTE.
I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR-- YOU'RE MR. DIORTE'S...
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER
YOUR HAIR LOOKS SO DIFFERENT, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT FIRST.
OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND TODAY?
ALL RIGHT! I'LL THROW THIS IN FOR YOU!
Yeah!
SAY HELLO TO YOUR DAD FOR ME.
WOW!
IF IT'S JUST CHANGING THE SHAPE OF YOUR FACE, THAT'S EASY.
PLASTIC SURGERY? I MIGHT BE BETTER AT THAT ONE.
BUT IF YOU INSIST, YOU CAN VISIT HEAT'S PLASTIC SURGERY.
OF COURSE, IT'S NON-LICENSED AND NON-ACCREDITED.
Clinica Heat
STOP EXAGGERATING.
LOOK, THEY'RE SELLING STUFF RIGHT FROM THE BOATS.
IT'S LIKE A NUDE FESTIVAL!!
WELL, NOW'VE YOU BEEN, RAYBORN?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FRESH SHRIMP?
We ended up receiving...
a whole lot of stuff
MY, YOU'RE CERTAINLY POPULAR, RAYBORN.
WELL, WELL, YOUNG MR. DIORTE, OUT SHOPPING, ARE YOU?
I'LL GIVE YOU A REALLY GOOD PRICE.
HEY, RAYBORN, YOU DON'T LIKE SWEET FRUITS EITHER?
I WANNA GET SOME FOR DESSERT.
OH?
THEY'RE SWEET AND DELICIOUS
WON'T YOU TRY SOME?
LOOK, THERE'S A BUNCH OF EXOTIC FRUITS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
HERE, A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
WILL YOU TELL YOUR DAD I GOT SOME REALLY FINE WINE IN?
HOW, SIR
sign

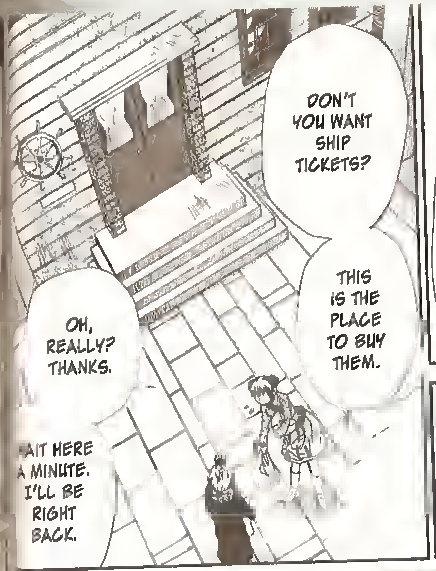

IF YOU TALK TO A PRIVATE FISHING BOAT OR A CARGO SHIP, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM TO GO. BUT...
...I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT TOO MUCH.


What's going on?
THERE ARE NO BOATS TO AGNEA--THAT'S THE ORDER FROM THE TOP.
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY REASONS OR EXPLANATIONS GIVEN, SO I'M AT A LOSS MYSELF.

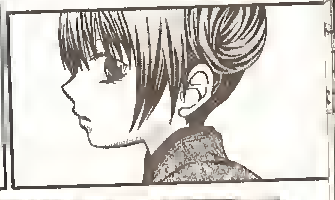

I-IDIOT! DON'T TALK TO ME...
...DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WITH A BOAT?
SO YOU SAY, BUT... HEY, RAYBORN ...


THIS ENTIRE PORT IS BASICALLY HIS.
IF YOU ASK HIM THROUGH HIS SON, HE MIGHT ACCOMMODATE YOU.

OH, MISS, YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SON, I SEE!
WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS IS ALL OWNED BY MR. DIORTE.


DON'T YOU WANT SHIP TICKETS?
THIS IS THE PLACE TO BUY THEM.
OH, REALLY? THANKS.
AIT HERE A MINUTE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY LIKE ME OR ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.

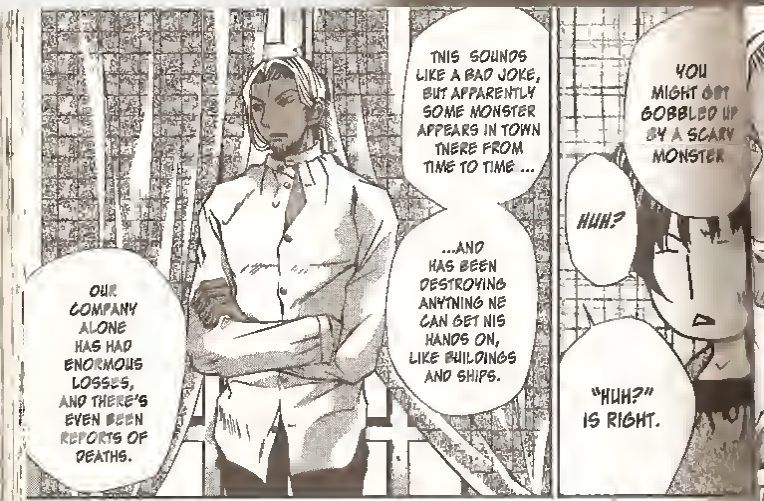


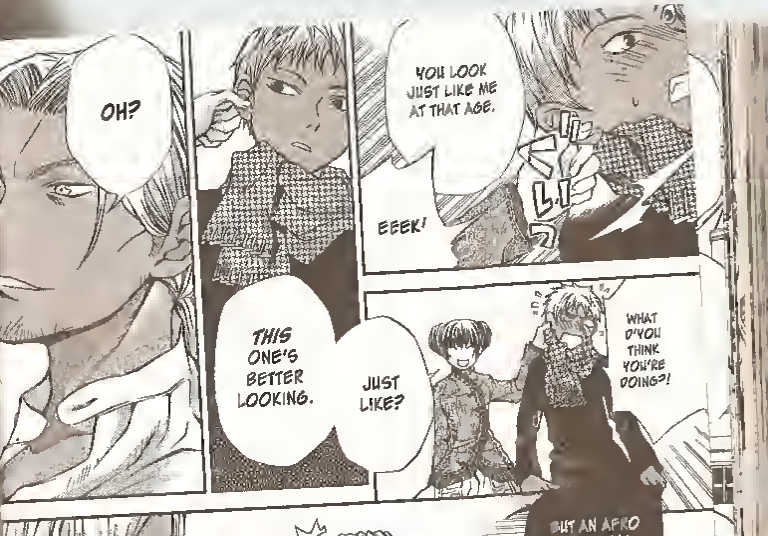
SIGH...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
WHAT!?! THERE'S NO BOAT?
WHY NOT?!

Ring ding

HE'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE HIS MIND JUST BECAUSE YOU ASK NICELY.
THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR NOT SENDING ANY BOATS THERE.
HUH?
You called me ultra ugly and stuff, too!
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY FOND OF YOU EITHER. TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.
...BUT YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE ME, DO YOU?
PERHAPS IF IT WERE FOR YOUR DEAREST FRIEND OR SOMETHING HE MIGHT BEND THE RULES A LITTLE...
She is holding a grudge
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ASKING A LOT OF A COMPLETE STRANGER?
WHAT A PUSHY CHICK!!
SAY WHAT YOU WANT.
FRANKLY, WHAT YOU SAY DOESN'T HURT EVEN A TINY, TINY BIT.
SKILL BUT SMALL STRENGTH
WHA?!
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT AND ALL, BUT...
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO SEE HIM AGAIN, SO TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE.
I MEAN, TAKE ME THERE, WILL YOU?
105
HOLD UP! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!
WHO CARES?
DON'T FOLLOW ME, ULTRA UGLY!!
ULTRA UGLY?!
RAYBORN?!
I WON'T BOW DOWN TO MY FATHER!!
NOT TO THAT JERK.
I WON'T ...!!
WELL, YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.
JEEZ... AT LEAST LEAVE THE GROCERIES BEHIND, WILL YOU?
THAT'S OUR NOURISHMENT, YOU KNOW.
I WON'T...
HUH?
Daga Daga Daga
HOW DARE YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU, A PRESCHOOLER OR SOMETHING?
HE WHO SAYS ULTRA UGLY IS THE ONE WHO'S ULTRA UGLY!
HE WHO SAYS PRESCHOOLER IS THE PRESCHOOLER!
GOTCHA!

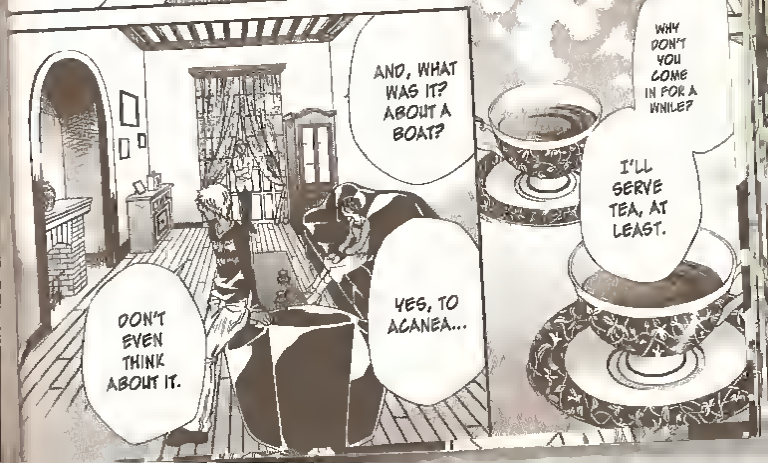
WHAT MASTER?! YOU MAKE ME SICK!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK SOME OTHER...
I'M SORRY, BUT THE MASTER IS OUT, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN HE WILL RETURN.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HER TO LEAVE 'CAUSE YOU JUST DON'T WANNA BE BOTHERED?
RAYBORN
I'M ONLY TAKING YOU TO MY HOUSE
I'M ONLY TAKING YOU THERE.
I GET IT ALREADY!
I TOLD YOU THAT'S ALL I WANT.
I'LL HIDE BEHIND HERE.
DON'T YOU TALK TO ME, ALL RIGHT?!
SHUT UP!
WOW, WHAT A HUGE MANSION!
BUT COMPARED TO THIS, THE SON'S ACTIONS ARE SO SEEDY...
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
YOU'RE ALL TALK, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT YOUR GENES, HUH?
WHO'S THE ONE THAT SAID...
..."I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE YOUR PUPPET" ...
...AND LEFT THE HOUSE?
I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU COME HOME WITH A STRAIGHT FACE?
WELL SHOOT SHE'S YOUR FRIEND, IS SHE?
SO MY NICE GUY ACT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.
I'M SORRY TO COME KNOCKING, BUT ARE YOU MR. DIORTE?
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT A BOAT.
MY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
OH WELL..
IS ANYONE HOME? HELLO?
HELLO? WHO IS IT?


OUR COMPANY ALONE HAS HAD ENORMOUS LOSSES, AND THERE'S EVEN BEEN REPORTS OF DEATHS.
THIS SOUNDS LIKE A BAD JOKE, BUT APPARENTLY SOME MONSTER APPEARS IN TOWN THERE FROM TIME TO TIME ...
...AND HAS BEEN DESTROYING ANYTHING HE CAN GET HIS HANDS ON, LIKE BUILDINGS AND SHIPS.
YOU MIGHT GET GOBBLED UP BY A SCARY MONSTER
HUH?
"HUH?" IS RIGHT.


OH?
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME AT THAT AGE.
EEEK!
THIS ONE'S BETTER LOOKING.
JUST LIKE?
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
BUT AN AFRO WOULD'VE HAD A BIGGER IMPACT, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT?!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT ...

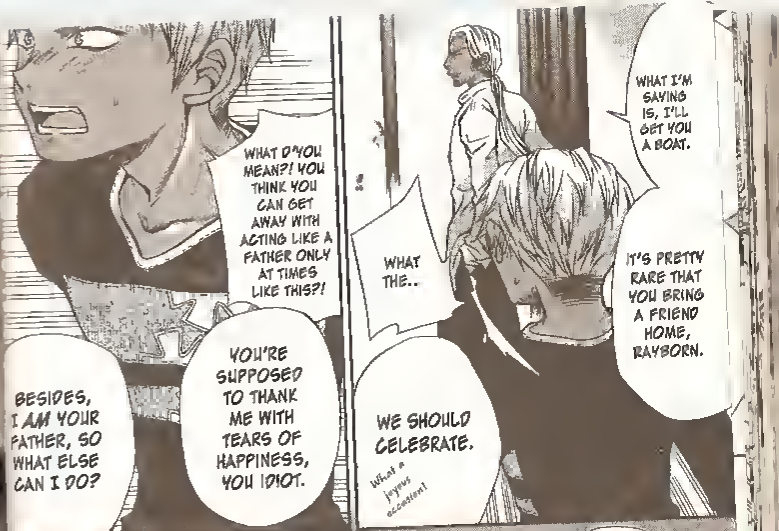
IF THE MONSTER DIDN'T GET YOU, THE FISH STINK WOULD.
FISHING BOATS? DON'T. I WOULDN'T.
...BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT WON'T HAPPEN EITHER.
I WAS TOLD THAT IF WE TALKED TO SOME FISHING BOATS, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US...

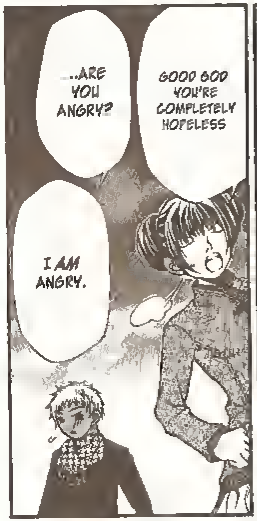
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF SHIPS THAT CAN ENTER A PORT?
BY THE WAY, YOUNG LADY.
I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF SUCH A THING, BUT...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. IF JUST ANYONE COULD USE THE PORT, IT WOULD BE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN IF YOU SPEND MILLIONS ON A SHIP, IF YOU DON'T HAVE PORT RIGHTS, IT'S JUST A HEAP OF WOOD.
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR SHIP TO ROT, YOU NEED TO EITHER BUY OR LEASE PORT RIGHTS.


AND, WHAT WAS IT? ABOUT A BOAT?
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN FOR A WHILE?
I'LL SERVE TEA, AT LEAST.
YES, TO ACANEA...
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

.....
I AGREE. NO THANK YOU.
Ha ha!
AFRAID?
blink blink
IF YOU WIN, I'LL TAKE YOU ON ONE OF MY SHIPS.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION, YOU HILL MONKEY!
I WON'T BE A CHEAPSKATE. IT WON'T BE A FISHING BOAT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
SHUT UP!!
HEY! DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING HE SAYS!
YOU... ARE YOU STUPID? WHO'S GONNA BET AGAINST YOU AFTER HEARING YOUR STORY?!
WHAT A BORING CHILD YOU ARE.
YOU SAID THERE'S BEEN DEATHS.
IF YOU SEND A BOAT FOR OUR SAKE, HOW WILL YOU SECURE THE SAFETY OF THE CREW?
I WON'T GAMBLE AWAY PEOPLE'S LIVES.
ALL RIGHT.
WHEN WE GET NEAR THE PORT, I'LL SEND YOU OUT IN A SMALL LAUNCH. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN AFTER THAT.
?!
...WHAT DO YOU THINK HE PUTS UP FOR HIS FINAL WAGER?
THE RIGHTS OF HIS BOAT?
AFTER A FISHERMAN GAMBLES AWAY ALL HIS MONEY AND HIS HOUSE AND EVERYTHING ELSE...
AND FISHING BOATS CAN'T SPEND ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT AT SEA.
WHEN THEY COME BACK ASHORE, HOW DO THEY SPEND THEIR SPARE TIME? USUALLY ON WOMEN, LIQUOR, AND GAMBLING.
I OWN ALMOST 100 PERCENT OF ALL THE PORT RIGHTS OF THE FISHING BOATS IN THIS TOWN.
AND I HAPPEN TO BE A VERY GOOD GAMBLER.
RIGHT YOU ARE.
CARE FOR A LITTLE GAME OF CHANCE?!
AND...
SINCE I'M DONE EXPLAINING THE STATE OF BUSINESS, NOW FOR THE MAIN TOPIC--
SO IF YOU WANT TO LOOK ELSEWHERE, THAT WOULD LEAVE YOU WITH ONLY CARGO SHIPS COMING IN FROM OVERSEAS.
AND I'VE GOT A MONOPOLY ON ALL THE PASSENGER SHIPS.
I...
...SEE...

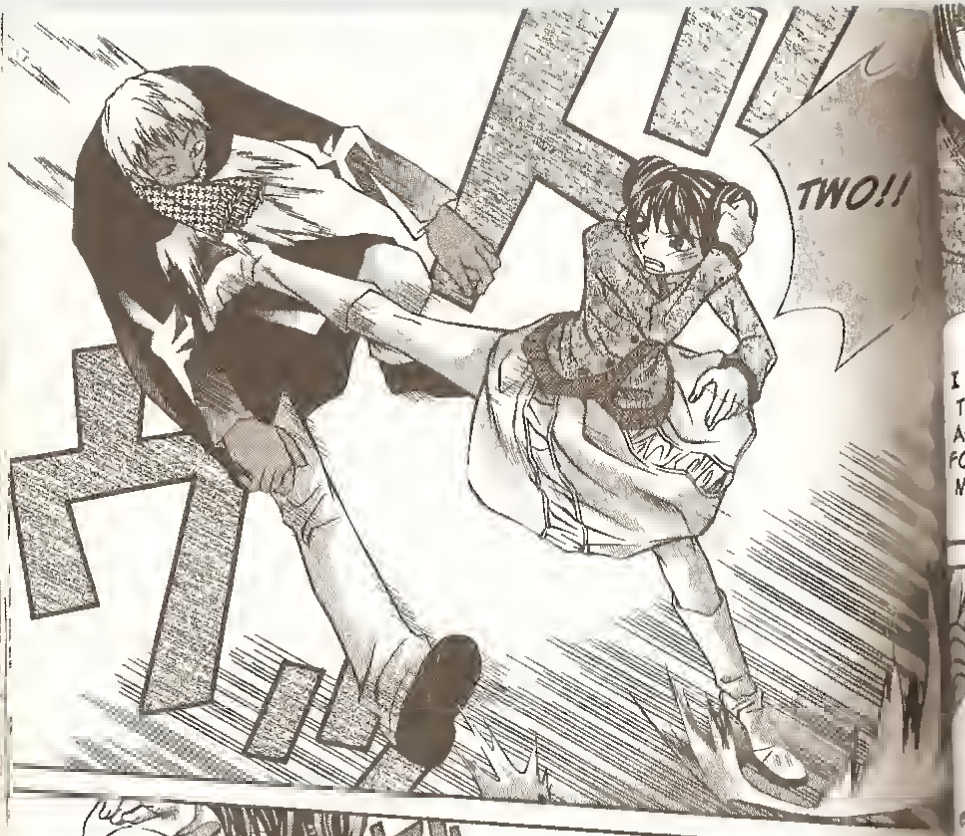
...SO YOU JUST WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS?
LIKE, YOU SAW THAT YOU HAD SOME WITNESSES..
NAH, THAT COULDN'T BE IT.
...THAT WAS JUST A SHAM SUICIDE?
COULD IT BE THAT WHEN YOU JUMPED OFF THE CLIFF..
WHAT? WHAAAT? REALLY?! NO WAY!
.. I'M SORRY.
YOU MEAN, FOR REAL?!

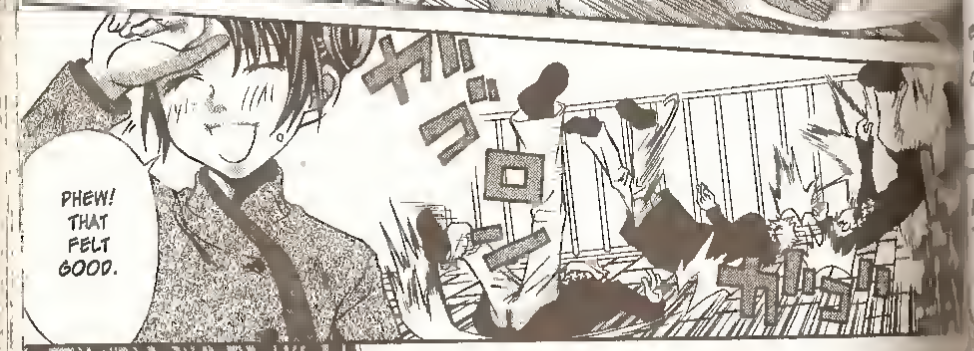

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?! YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH ACTING LIKE A FATHER ONLY AT TIMES LIKE THIS?!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO THANK ME WITH TEARS OF HAPPINESS, YOU IDIOT.
BESIDES, I AM YOUR FATHER, SO WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I'LL GET YOU A BOAT.
IT'S PRETTY RARE THAT YOU BRING A FRIEND HOME, RAYBORN.
WHAT THE..
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE.
What a joyous occasion!


...ARE YOU ANGRY?
GOOD GOD YOU'RE COMPLETELY HOPELESS
I AM ANGRY.

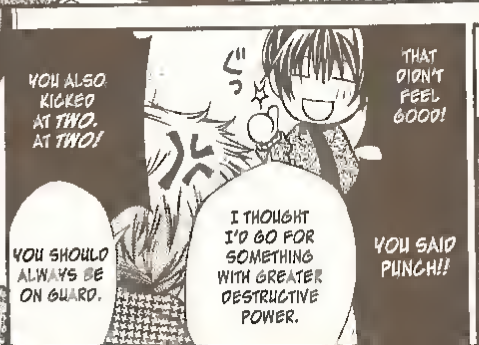
Mumble
IF IT'S A SHAM YOU'D BE GOING FOR YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR METHODS MORE CAREFULLY!
WHEN I HAD TIME TO THINK AFTERWARDS, I FELT SO EMBARRASSED...
YOU COULDN'T REALLY KILL DO YOURSELF
I'M SORRY I TOOK IT OUT ON YOU AND SAID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS...
I KNOW, BUT I WASN'T REALLY THINKING VERY CLEARLY...

...I'M YOUR FATHER AS LONG AS WE LIVE, YOU BRAT.
WHETHER YOU AND I LIKE IT OR NOT...
BECAUSE OF HIM, MY MOTHER WAS...
YOU CAN SAY THAT ABOUT HIM NOW BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
YOU'D HAVE TO BE STUPID TO LET YOURSELF GET FOOLED BY HIM.
WHAT A NICE DAD.


TWO!!


PHEW! THAT FELT GOOD.

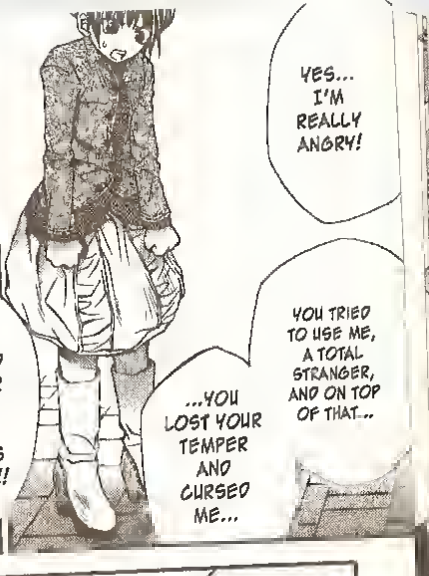
NOW WE'RE EVEN...
...AREN'T WE?


YOU ALSO KICKED AT TWO. AT TWO!
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON GUARD.
I THOUGHT I'D GO FOR SOMETHING WITH GREATER DESTRUCTIVE POWER.
THAT DIDN'T FEEL GOOD!
YOU SAID PUNCH!!

THW

I KNOW THAT'S ASKING FOR TOO MUCH...
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME AFTER JUST A SIMPLE APOLOGY.

WELL...
COME ON, THAT WASN'T SO BAD...
...AND COMPLAINED ABOUT YOUR HAIR AND HOW THE COCOA WAS TOO SWEET!!


YES... I'M REALLY ANGRY!
YOU TRIED TO USE ME, A TOTAL STRANGER, AND ON TOP OF THAT...
...YOU LOST YOUR TEMPER AND CURSED ME...

WAAAH! NOW I'M REALLY, REALLY ANGRY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL!!
YOU'RE A TERRIBLE PERSON! REALLY BAAAAD!!!
BUT I TOLD YOU I WAS SORRY!
I'M NOT BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CRY, AM I?
Waaaaah!

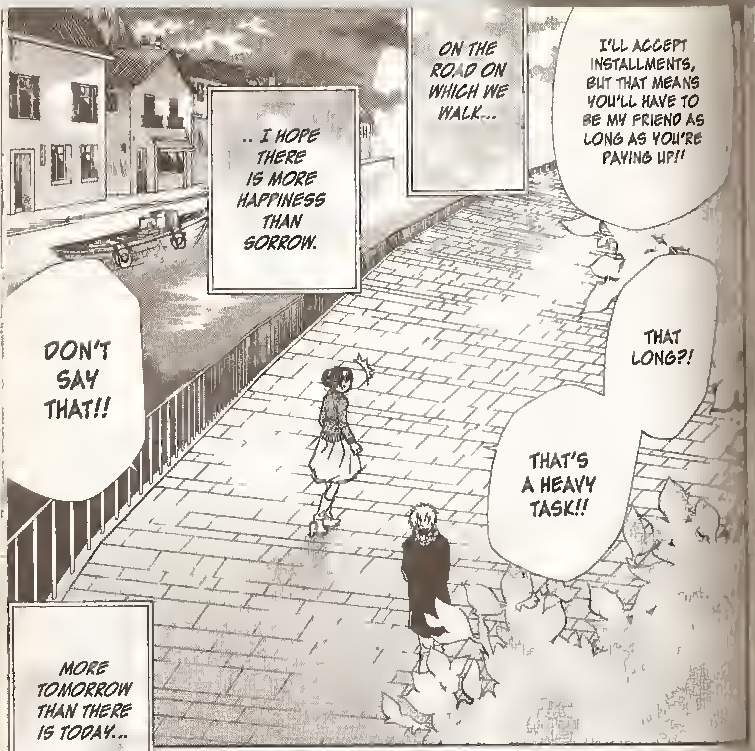
HERE I GO. FIVE!
FOUR!
THREE!
ALL RIGHT!

I'LL GO AT THE COUNT OF FIVE. BITE DOWN AND GET READY.
...IT WOULDN'T DO ANY-BODY ANY GOOD TO COMPLAIN LIKE THAT ANYWAY.
SO INSTEAD, I'LL JUST PUNCH YOU AND FORGET THE WHOLE THING.

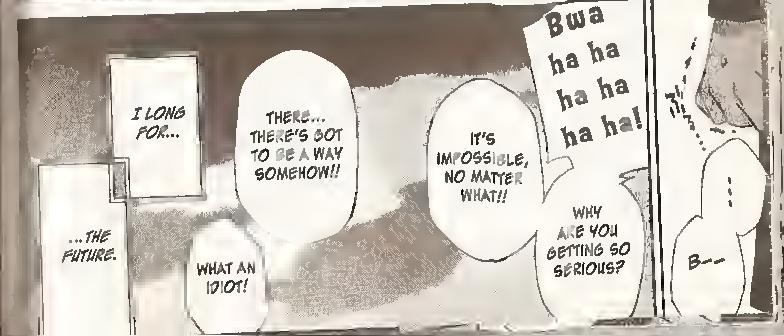
LET US BE TOGETHER TOMORROW.
LET US BE TOGETHER THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
THAT'S WHY...
I'M OVERJOYED.
...WITH THE PRESENT MOMENT WHEN I LIKE PEOPLE..
...AND I AM LIKED BY PEOPLE.
MAYBE I WON'T BE LIKED ANYMORE THE NEXT TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER...
OR I MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO THINKS...
"I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THESE GUYS ANYMORE.. "
BUT EVEN SO, BECAUSE I LIKE THEM NOW...
BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY DEAR TO ME NOW...
I LONG FOR THE FUTURE THAT LIES AHEAD.
YOU CAN'T MAKE PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE.

AND OF COURSE IT'S THE "CUZ I LIKE YOU" KIND OF INDULGING. GOT IT? YEAH!
NO MORE COMPLAINTS, OKAY?
WHEN WE GET BACK TO OUR ROOM, I'LL TREAT YOU AND INDULGE YOU TO NO END
WHAT THE HECK?!
WE'RE EVEN NOW?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE COME OUT SHORT.
YOU GOTTA PAY INTEREST ON YOUR DEBT, YOU KNOW.
I'VE LEARNED NEVER TO GO INTO DEBT WITH YOU AGAIN...
A PIECE OF TRASH?! THAT BAD?!
BEFORE YOU WERE A PIECE OF TRASH, AND NOW I LIKE YOU. IT'S TOTALLY FINE WITH ME.
REALLY? BUT DON'T YOU THINK FEELINGS CHANGE CONSTANTLY?
...AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT TOO FORWARD?
FOR SOMEONE WHO SAID YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME..
GOOD QUESTION.
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE? I WONDER.
BESIDES, THAT MEANS YOU MIGHT HATE ME TOMORROW, DOESN'T IT?
NOT JUST ME, BUT THOSE BIG GUYS, TOO?

THAT SOMEBODY...
...WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND...
NO ONE'S EVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE.
THAT THEY LIKE ME...
BOY, YOU'RE FULL OF IT...
YUP, A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY THAT.
AND THE NEXT DAY, AND THE NEXT
I HOPE THAT I'M STILL LIKED...
I'M HAVING A TENDER MOMENT, DAMMIT! DON'T RUIN IT!!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO'S COWARDLY AND INDECISIVE WOULDN'T BE VERY POPULAR, NO DOUBT.
WELL, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE ANY SAY IN IT EVEN NOW.
THE OTHERS WERE KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS HAD NO SAY IN IT AND...
OF COURSE, IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE A KID...
SO, IN SHORT, WHAT IT MEANS IS...
I WANT YOU TO BE MY FRIEND
NO MATTER HOW THINGS USED TO BE, I LIKE YOU NOW, RAYBORN.
REALLY?
AS MANY TIMES?
REALLY!!
AS MANY TIMES.
ALL RIGHT BUT IT'S ONLY WHILE WE REMAIN FRIENDS, OKAY?
"I LIKE YOU."
I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE.
THEN, A HUNDRED MILLION TIMES.
WHAT YOU JUST SAID...
AY THAT AGAIN.
IF IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU CAN SAY NO.
BUT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT I'LL HATE YOU THE MOMENT YOU SAY SO.
IT MAKES ME MUCH HAPPIER THAN TRYING TO LIVE UP TO..
...AN EXPECTATION OF FOREVER.


ON THE ROAD ON WHICH WE WALK...
I'LL ACCEPT INSTALLMENTS, BUT THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO BE MY FRIEND AS LONG AS YOU'RE PAYING UP!!
.. I HOPE THERE IS MORE HAPPINESS THAN SORROW.
DON'T SAY THAT!!
THAT LONG?!
THAT'S A HEAVY TASK!!
MORE TOMORROW THAN THERE IS TODAY..
AND THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW THAN TOMORROW..
THAT EACH DAY WILL CONTINUE TO BE HAPPIER.

CAN I DO IT IN INSTALLMENTS?!
HUH ?
YOU SAID AS MANY TIMES AS I WANT, RIGHT? SO, ONE HUNDRED MILLION TIMES.
I WON'T ALLOW ANY OMISSIONS OR ABBREVIATIONS.
WHAT? WHAT?? WAIT.
IF I SAY IT ONCE EVERY SECOND, THAT WOULD BE 60 TIMES A MINUTE, AND 36 HUNDRED TIMES IN AN HOUR. .
EVEN IF I SAID IT TEN HOURS A DAY, THAT WOULD AMOUNT TO 13 MILLION TIMES AND CHANGE A YEAR..?
Serious


I LONG FOR...
...THE FUTURE.
THERE... THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY SOMEHOW!!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, NO MATTER WHAT!!
Bwa ha ha ha ha!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO SERIOUS?
B--

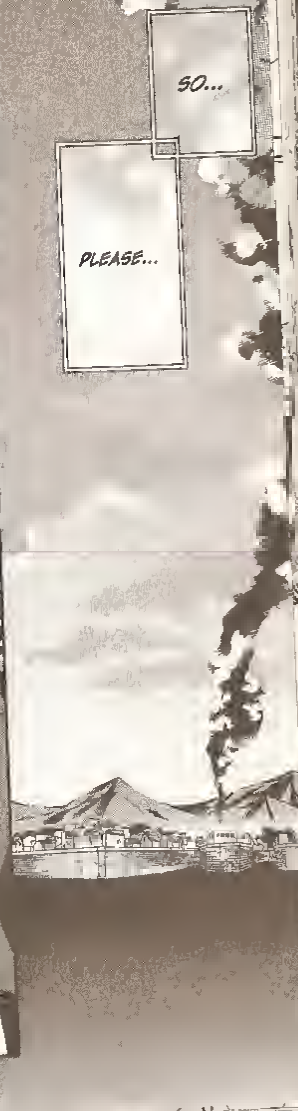
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
BUT I NEED TO CALL YOU SOMETHING FOR THE TIME BEING.
JUST LIVE WITH IT FOR NOW, OKAY?
THAT!!
I TOLD YOU THAT'S NOT MY NAME!

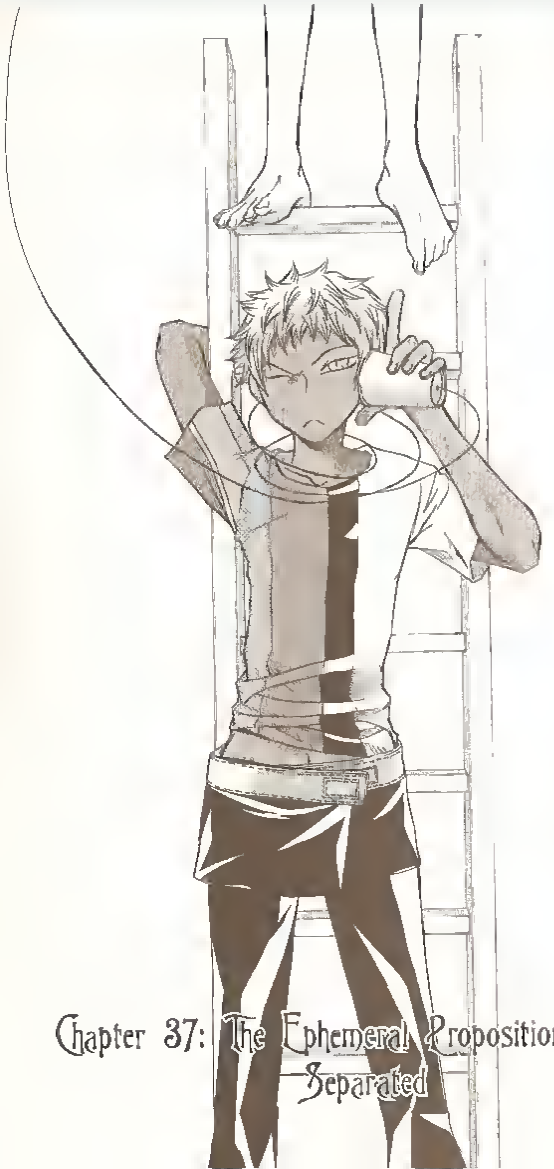
BY THE WAY, ONE OF THEM ESCAPED.
SHOULD WE GO AFTER HIM?
DON'T BOTHER.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU'D KILL THEM ALL, KIARA.
OR SHOULD I GIVE YOU A NAME?
ALZEID IS FINE!!

drag
Huff
Huff
Huff
drag

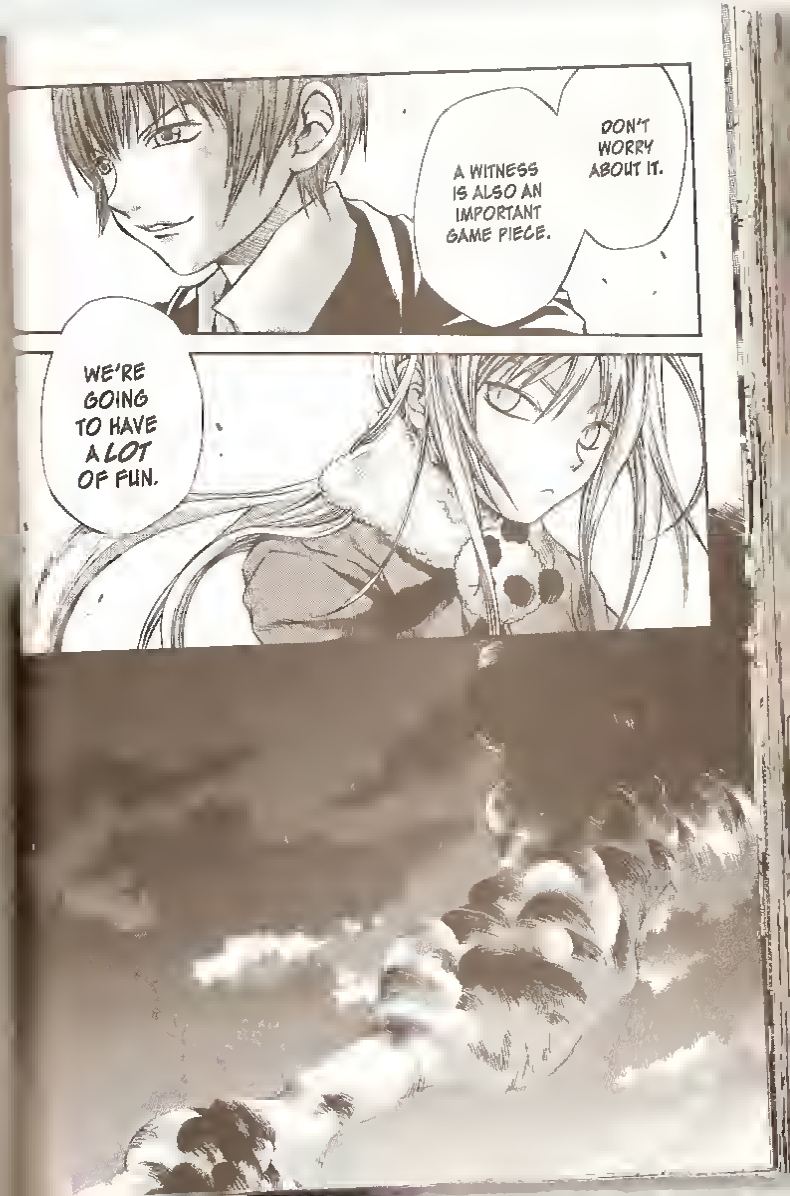
AH!
stagger

Beki
ALZEID.
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Gyaa ah!


SO...
PLEASE...



Chapter 37: The Ephemeral Proposition--Part 2: Separated



SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SHE'S SAYING ANYMORE...
SHE'S SEASICK? WHAT A WEAKLING.
I had no idea that ships made you so, so sick!
IT'S HARAKIRI FOR YOU, I SAY! HARAKIRI!!
OOH HOO HOO HOO. SOME POOR IDIOT IN MY STOMACH IS TRYING TO REBEL.
But there was a huge hidden downside
RAHZEL?

WHO KNOWS? IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE WAY THINGS TURNED OUT.
IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO ASK THIS, BUT WHY IS THAT KID HERE?
BAROQUE-HEAT...

STOP THAT!! LET ME KEEP MY DIGNITY AS A LADY!!
What're you planning to do with those fingers?
DO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU VOMIT? YOU'LL FEEL BETTER

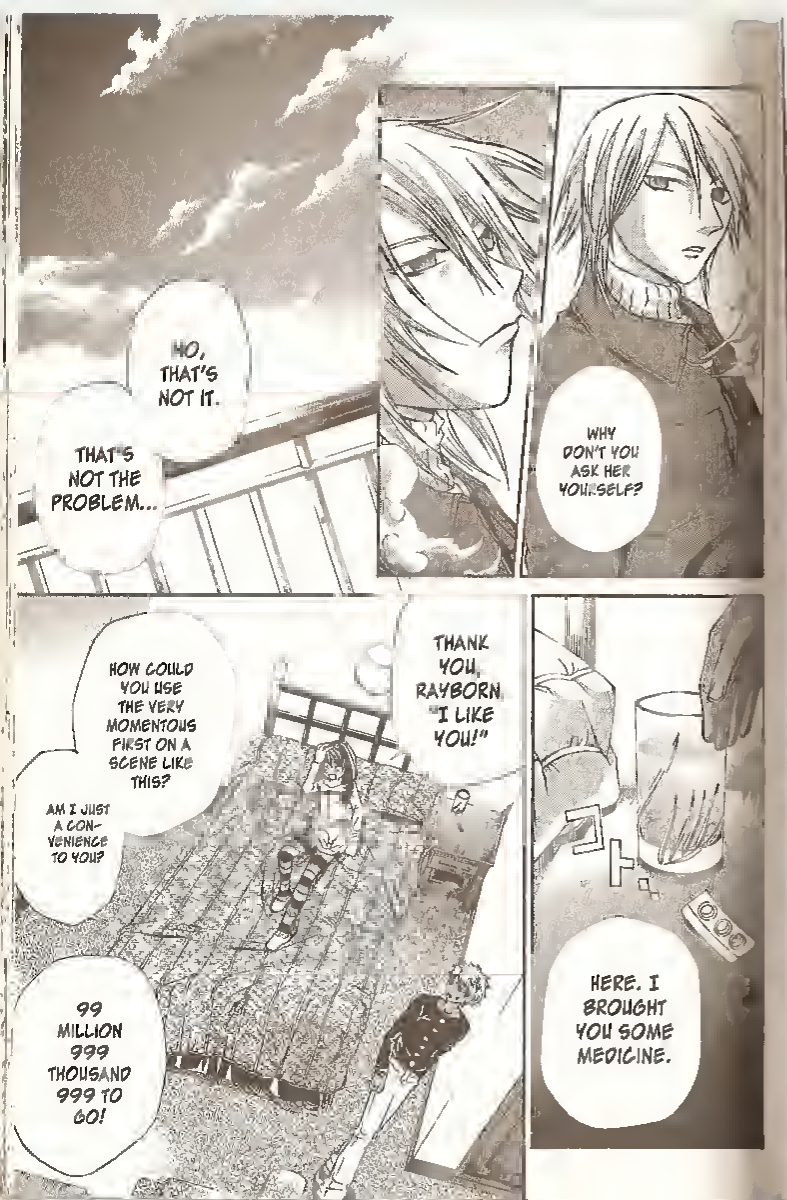
WE STAY TOGETHER, 'CAUSE IT'S HARDER TO BE APART.
AREN'T WE ALL THAT WAY?
WE JUST HAPPENED TO MEET, AND STUCK WITH EACH OTHER.

URRRGH. THANKS A BUNCH.
I'LL TAKE HER TO HER ROOM.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

We're finally on the sea!!
THEEE...
...SEEEA!

I AM HAPPY!
It's all free!!
Totally free!! (Hooray!)
YOU'RE SURE EXCITED.
DOES IT MAKE YOU THAT HAPPY?

Raybonn's dad got us a luxury liner.
AMAZING! THE SHORE IS SO SMALL ALREADY!!

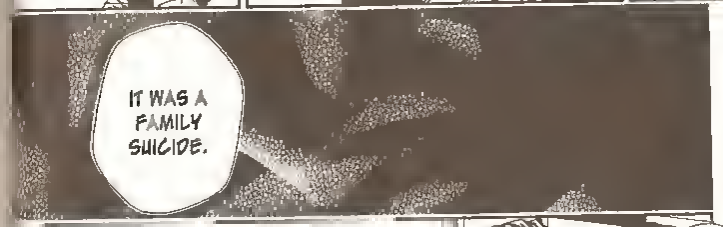

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?
HOW COULD YOU USE THE VERY MOMENTOUS FIRST ON A SCENE LIKE THIS?
AM I JUST A CONVENIENCE TO YOU?
99 MILLION 999 THOUSAND 999 TO GO!
THANK YOU, RAYBORN. "I LIKE YOU!"
HERE. I BROUGHT YOU SOME MEDICINE.

YOU AND THAT CHICK DECIDED TO TAG ALONG WITH ME.
I SIMPLY FOLLOWED RAHZEL. I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU AROUND.
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF.
STALKER.
HOW DARE YOU?
DO YOU KNOW WHY RAHZEL DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THE VILLAGE?
NOT REALLY, ALTHOUGH I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.
YEAH?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHEN YOU GO TO THAT VILLAGE, YOU'LL BE BY YOURSELF.
I don't know what Rayborn will do, but...
PERHAPS THERE IS A CHANCE THAT WE'LL JUST SAY GOODBYE THEN.
IF WE'RE TOGETHER BY CHANCE...
...WE COULD PART BY CHANCE TOO.

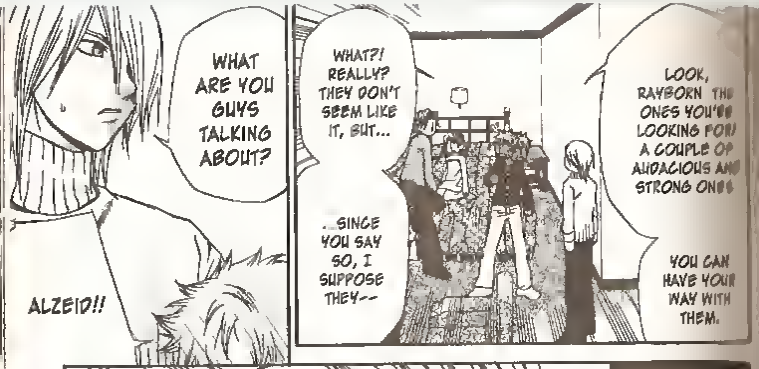
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE...
...THE ONE FRIEND I FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE.
A CONCISE REPLY, JUST AS I EXPECTED.
YOU'RE A TRUTHIST!
SKIPPING.
HEY, RAY-BORN, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I'M ALMOST FIFTEEN, SO YOU'RE A YEAR AHEAD OF ME IN SCHOOL?
SIXTEEN.
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
BUT...
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
BUT... OH DEAR... HE'S MAKING ME BLUSH!!
BUT I SHOULDN'T THINK SUCH THINGS OF OLDER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY MALES!!
HOW CUTE CAN THIS GUY GET?!
HOW... HOW CUTE!!
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU THINK I'M JUST TROUBLE?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO BACK WITH THE SHIP WITHOUT COMING ASHORE ON AGANEA...
...BUT IF YOU TRAVEL WITH US, THERE WILL BE CERTAIN ASSOCIATED DANGERS.
THE WAY THINGS TURNED OUT YOU'RE HERE NOW...
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO WEASEL OUTTA THE 99 MILLION (ETC.), ARE YOU?
TCH!
TCH? WHAT D'YOU MEAN, "TCH"? I WAS RIGHT.
I'LL GRANT YOU FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, BUT DON'T EVER LET YOUR THOUGHTS OUT OF YOUR HEAD, YOU HEAR?!
NOW YOU'VE GONE AND FILLED MY HEAD WITH STUPID THOUGHTS LIKE THAT.
DON'T SURPRISE ME THAT WAY!
...BESIDES ME WHO WILL LIKE YOU.
I BET YOU'LL MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE...
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.
DON'T LAUGH!!
PFT!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I CAN BE PRETTY TOUGH IF I WANT TO BE!
DON'T TAKE ME SO LIGHTLY.

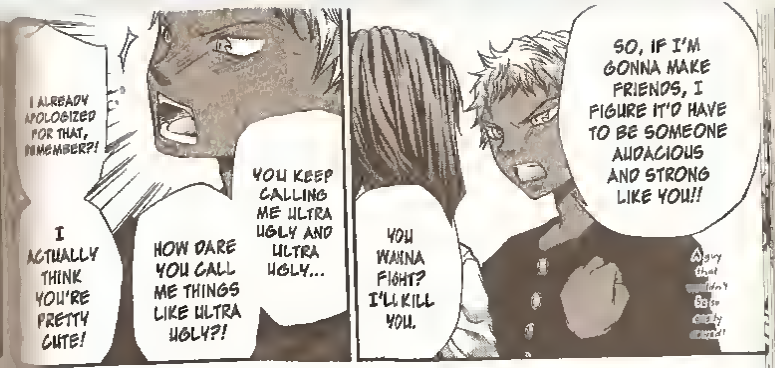
I THINK THAT'S WHEN PEOPLE STARTED TO AVOID ME.
NO, MAYBE...
...I WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED TO AVOID THEM...
HE CALLS IT GAMBLING, BUT IT'S ALL FRAUD.
HE SETS THINGS UP BEHIND THE SCENES AND TAKES EVERYTHING HE CAN FROM UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE.
THEY SAY HIS COLLECTION METHODS ARE PRETTY UGLY, TOO.
HE NEVER HAD ANY GANGSTER TRAINING, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP OR SOMETHING...

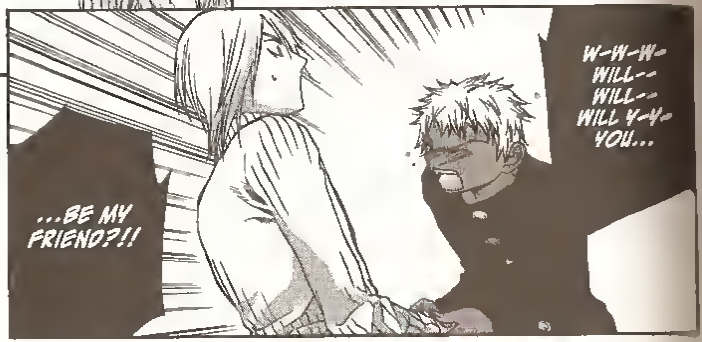
WITHOUT FINISHING THE STEPS!!
THEN ONE DAY, SUDDENLY HE STOPPED TALKING TO ME.
HE EVENTUALLY STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.
ARE THE STEPS SO IMPORTANT?
WE'D BUILD STONE STEPS IN SOME STRANGER'S MANDARIN ORANGE ORCHARD WITHOUT PERMISSION AND STUFF...
STEPS?! WHAT FOR?!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVE NO IDEA.
WE'D GIVE HUGE CLAY BOOBS TO THE STATUE ON THE SCHOOL GATE...
WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, THERE WAS THIS REALLY NICE GUY.
UH-HUH.

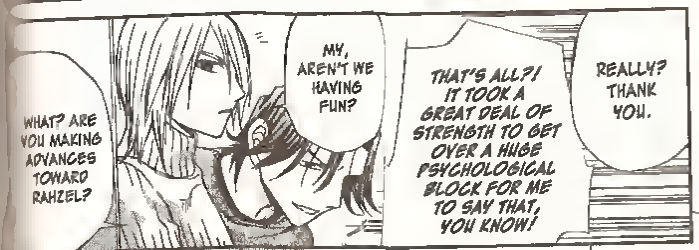

IT WAS A FAMILY SUICIDE.

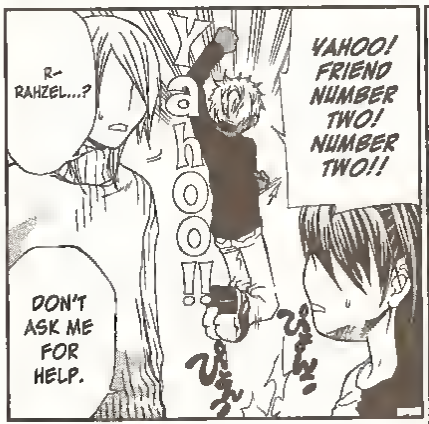
DON'T BE FOOLED BY HIS SMALL SHOW OF GENEROSITY.
THEY JUST COULDN'T PAY THE DEBTS THEY'D ACCUMULATED FROM GAMBLING OR SOMETHING...
YOU CAN GUESS WHO THE DEBT WAS TO, CAN'T YOU? THAT'S RIGHT, MY OLD MAN.

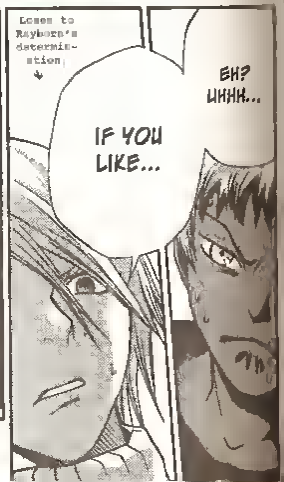

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
ALZEID!!
WHAT?! REALLY? THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE IT, BUT...
...SINCE YOU SAY SO, I SUPPOSE THEY--
LOOK, RAYBORN THE ONES YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A COUPLE OF AUDACIOUS AND STRONG ONES
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WAY WITH THEM.

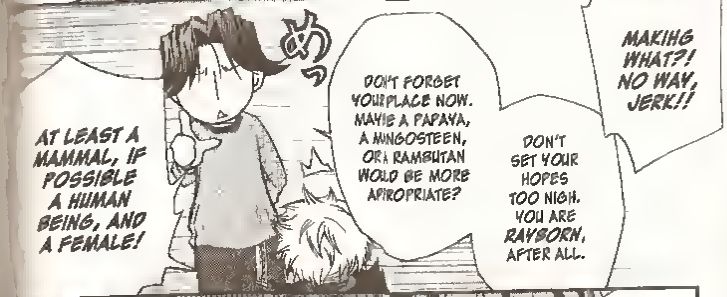

I ALREADY APOLOGIZED FOR THAT, REMEMBER?
I ACTUALLY THINK YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME THINGS LIKE ULTRA UGLY?!
YOU KEEP CALLING ME ULTRA UGLY AND ULTRA UGLY...
YOU WANNA FIGHT? I'LL KILL YOU.
SO, IF I'M GONNA MAKE FRIENDS, I FIGURE IT'D HAVE TO BE SOMEONE AUDACIOUS AND STRONG LIKE YOU!!

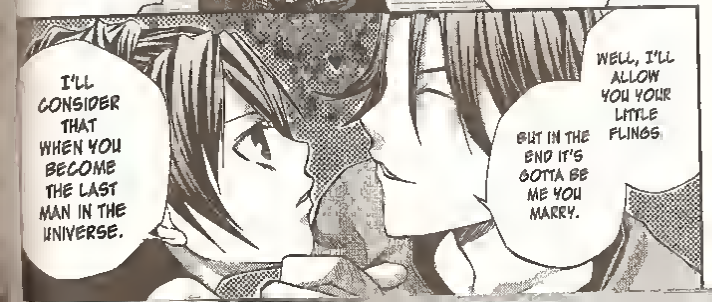

...BE MY FRIEND?!!
W-W-W-WILL-- WILL-- WILL Y-Y-YOU...


WHAT? ARE YOU MAKING ADVANCES TOWARD RAHZEL?
HM, AREN'T WE HAVING FUN?
THAT'S ALL?! IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF STRENGTH TO GET OVER A HUGE PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOCK FOR ME TO SAY THAT, YOU KNOW!
REALLY? THANK YOU.


R-RAHZEL...?
YAHOO! FRIEND NUMBER TWO! NUMBER TWO!!
YAHOO!!
DON'T ASK ME FOR HELP.


Listen to Rayborn's determination
EH? UHHH...
IF YOU LIKE...


AT LEAST A MAMMAL, IF POSSIBLE A HUMAN BEING, AND A FEMALE!
DON'T FORGET YOUR PLACE NOW. MAYBE A PAPAYA, A MANGOSTEEN, OR A RAMBUTAN WOULD BE MORE APROPRIATE?
DON'T SET YOUR HOPES TOO HIGH. YOU ARE RAYBORN, AFTER ALL.
MAKING WHAT?! NO WAY, JERK!!


I'LL CONSIDER THAT WHEN YOU BECOME THE LAST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE.
BUT IN THE END IT'S GOTTA BE ME YOU MARRY.
WELL, I'LL ALLOW YOU YOUR LITTLE FLINGS.

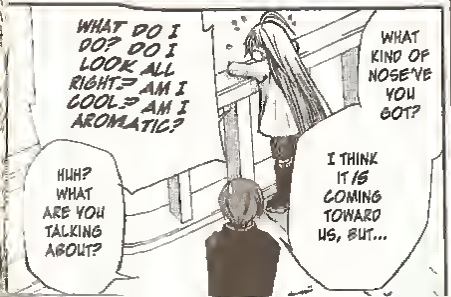
I WONDER FROM TIME TO TIME...
IF I WERE TO SILENTLY WALK AWAY...
...MAYBE NO ONE WOULD NOTICE.
ALZEID!
IF IT'S NOT A MISTAKE
FOR ME TO BE HERE.
ALZEID, YOU DON'T LOOK QUITE WELL YOURSELF.
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
YOU LOOK HEALTHY ENOUGH TO SWALLOW A WHOLE ELEPHANT.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK DOWN TO ABOUT HALF THAT LEVEL.
IS YOUR SEASICKNESS BETTER?
YEP, ALL BETTER!

'CAUSE YOU KNOW, I KINDA LIKE YOU A LOT...
WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD.
Sigh
GOOD FOR YOU. NOW YOU'RE ONE OF THE ADULTS.
BY THE WAY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME, TOO? TO BE YOUR FRIEND?
SH-SHOOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO TO BEGIN WITH?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL MAKE YOU MY FRIEND, TOO.
REALLY? HOORAY!
SORT OF?!
NAH, I'M GOOD. SORT OF.
YEAH, SORT OF.
RAYBORN, THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
Don't be foolish!
YOU'RE NOT HIS FRIEND-- YOU'RE HIS SLAVE!
R-RUFF RUFF!!
S-SURE, I'D LOVE TO!
I'M KINDA THIRSTY. WOULD YOU BRING ME SOMETHING TO DRINK?
BY THE WAY, YOU SHOULD REPLY WITH A "RUFF."

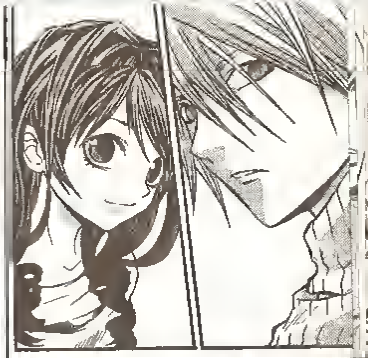
Sniff...

My hands look pretty clean.
I don't smell anything
?
I THINK I'VE WASHED OFF ALL THE BLOOD ALREADY...
NO, IT'S HER SMELL!!

WHAT IS IT, ALZEID?
I SMELL IT.


WHAT DO I DO? DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT.? AM I COOL.? AM I AROMATIC?
WHAT KIND OF NOSE'VE YOU GOT?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THINK IT IS COMING TOWARD US, BUT...

DAMMIT! YOU'RE NOT MY FRIEND ANYMORE!!
OH REALLY? BUT I STILL LIKE YOU, RAYBORN
THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT ME, DON'T YOU!?
.....



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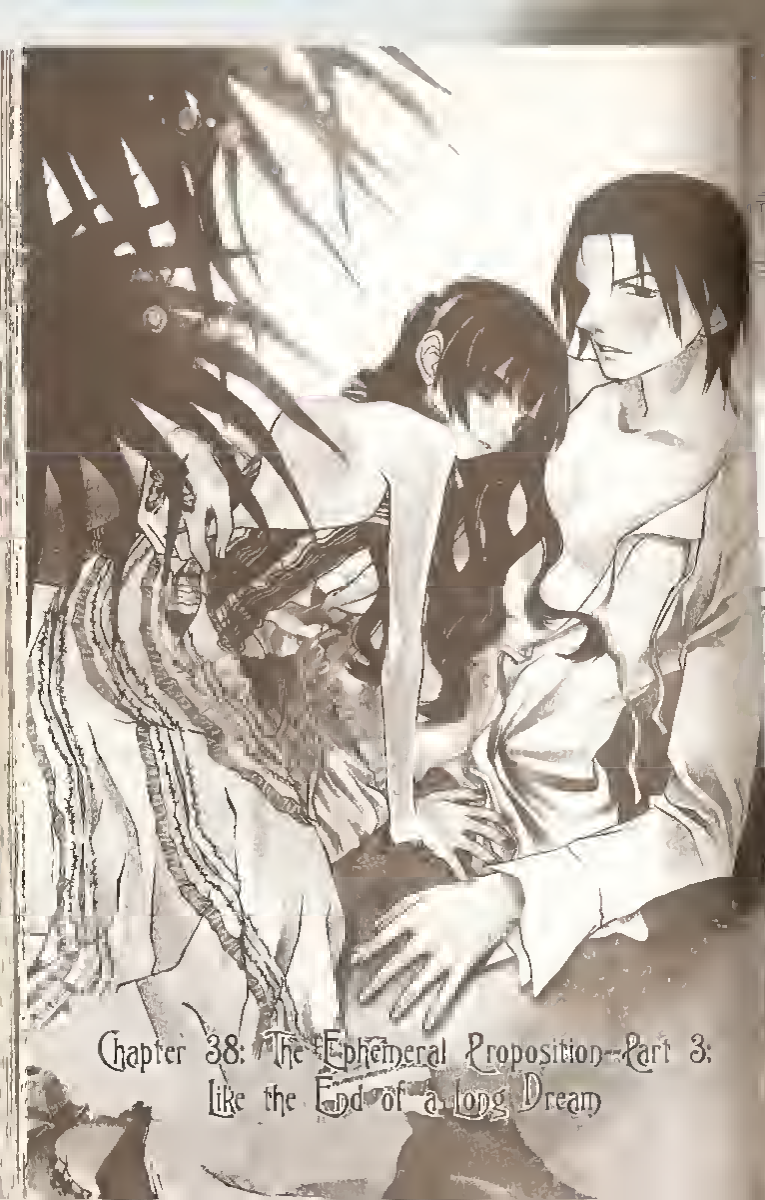
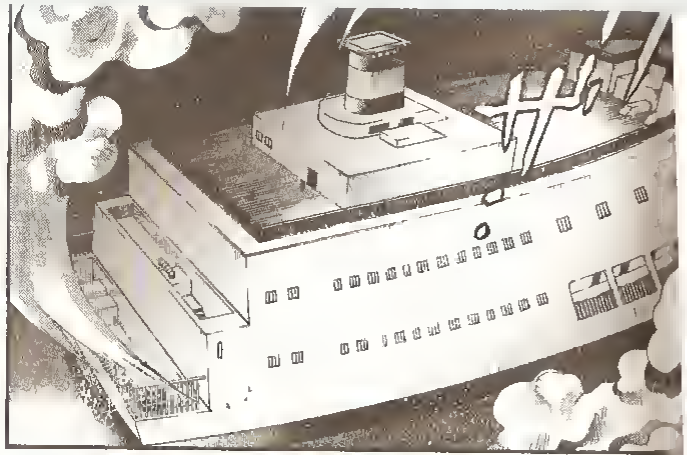
HEY, STOP IT. WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE...

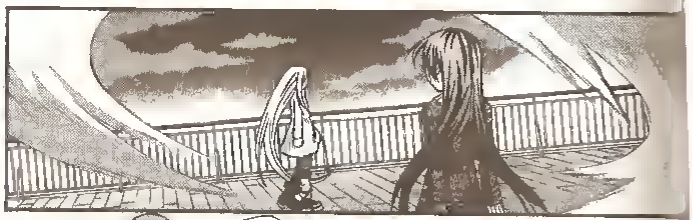
ALZEID?

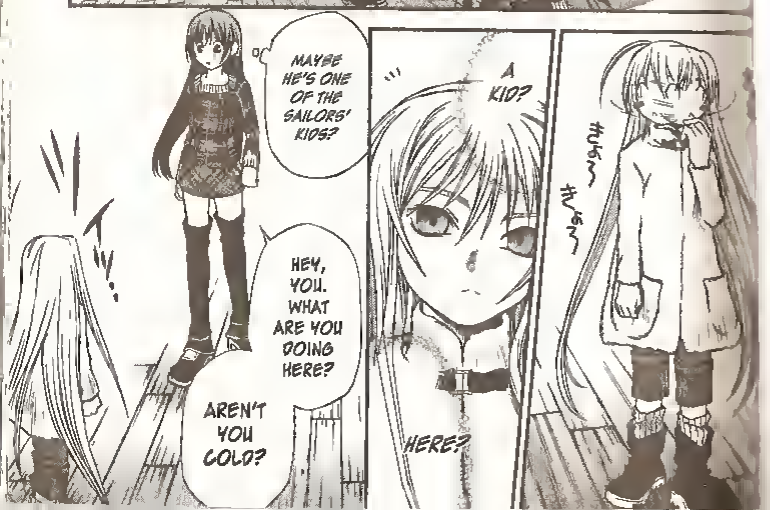
I'M GONNA GO SEE HER!!
SEE HER?!
WAIT, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
!!
DAMN...
I HOPE YOU KEEP YOURSELF FROM BEING SEEN BY THE OTHERS, AT LEAST...
HMM, WHERE'S THE DINING ROOM...?
とろ、
ARGH...
THIS ISN'T IT EITHER.
HOW COULD THIS BE? MAYBE THE MAP IS WRONG?
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE THINGS OUT FROM ON DECK...
WAAH!
BOY, THAT WAS A STRONG GUST OF WIND.
IT'S COLD, TOO...



Chapter 38: The Ephemeral Proposition--Part 3: Like the End of a Long Dream






MAYBE HE'S ONE OF THE SAILORS' KIDS?
HEY, YOU. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AREN'T YOU COLD?
A KID?
HERE?
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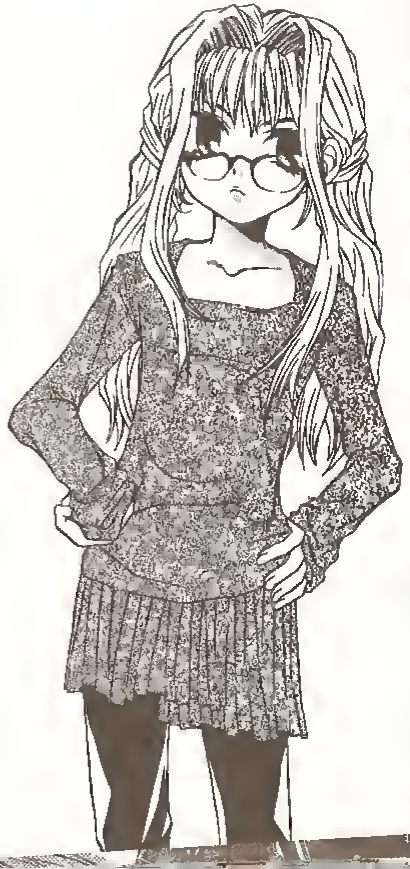


I SMELL?!
?
THE JERK TOLD ME NOT TO GO, BUT THAT'S OKAY, SINCE I DON'T LIKE HIM ANYWAY.
WHAT IS THIS KID? WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
THE JERK SAID HE'D L ME SEE YO IF I LISTEN TO HIM AND BEHAVE.
BUT WEREN'T THERE SOME WORDS AND ACTIONS THAT I SHOULDN'T IGNORE?
SO I DID WHA HE ASKED ME TO, THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO BUT I SMELLE YOU, SO I FLEW OVER TO SEE YOU!!
WHAAAT?!
I DON'T REMEMBER MEETING YOU...
PERHAPS YOU'RE MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
UMM... YOUNG MAN, MY NAME IS RAHZEL.
YOU SAID...
YOU'D GIVE ME A NAME, TOO...!!
I...I'M SORRY?
BUT I THINK THAT CLEARLY THOSE WERE SOMEONE ELSE'S ACTIONS!
HOW COULD YOU! YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME?!
WE TOOK BATHS TOGETHER, AND YOU KISSED ME GOOD NIGHT!
WE WERE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS!!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
HUH? WHAT? WHAT?!
sniff
sniff
?
YOU'LL CATCH COLD OUT HERE WHY DON'T YOU GO INSIDE ..
F-FEMALE?!
NWAH?!
I MEAN, I AM A FEMALE, BUT!!
I MEAN--I FOUND A YOUNG LADY!
YOU WON'T ANSWER ME OTHERWISE, RIGHT?
I FOUND A FEMALE!!
Nuho

I GOTTA GO.
SOMEONE'S COMING!
NAH... OKAY! IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE, RAHZEL!!
PLEASE..
...COME UP WITH A NAME FOR ME SOON.
SORRY, ALZ--
?!
OH, THERE YOU ARE, RAHZEL.
I TOLD YOU I DON'T--
YOU DON'T KNOW YET.
NO...YOU DIDN'T FORGET.
A NAME...?
OH, BUT UNLESS I DO AS THE JERK ASKS...
...RAHZEL WILL GO ON NOT KNOWING ME...
WHO'S THIS JERK YOU KEEP MENTIONING?
"JERK" IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR AN UNPLEASANT PERSON LIKE HIM.
THE JERK IS THE JERK.
?
YOUR NAME IS RAHZEL, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT A SECRET ANYMORE.
WHAT?
TRAPS?
LISTEN, RAHZEL. DON'T GO IN THAT DIRECTION.
THERE ARE TRAPS. IT'S DANGEROUS.
It's dangerous to climb up!

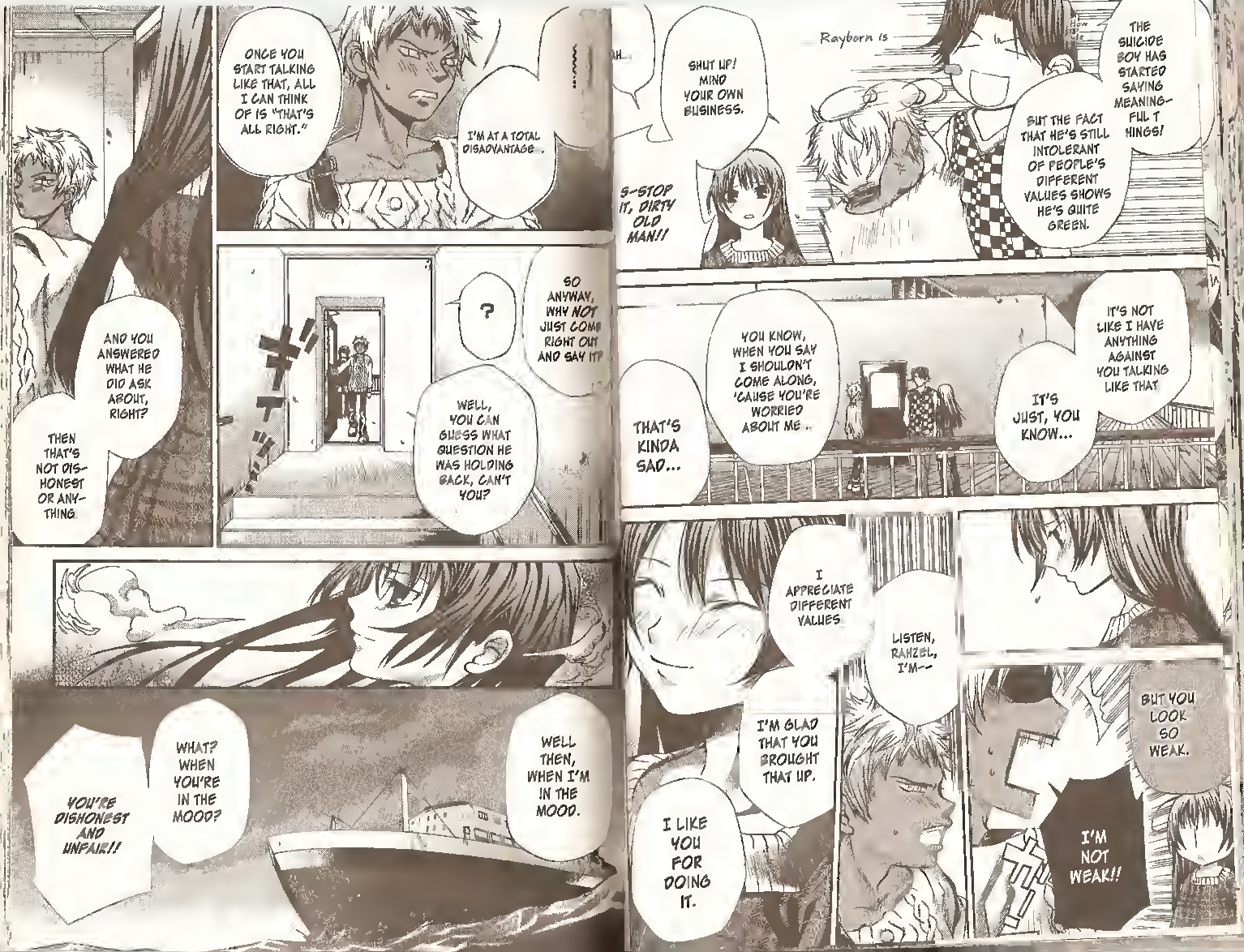
DO I SMELL?!
HUH?
WHAT BRINGS THAT UP?
THE KID SAID HE CAME HERE 'CAUSE HE SMELLED ME...
AND THE SMELL WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO TRAVEL TENS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES!
SUCH A STRONG SMELL! YOU HEAR ME?!
A KID?
JUST NOW THERE WAS A KID HERE.
HUH?
HE'S GONE...?
WHAT IS IT?
...ALZEID, DO YOU HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER?
UHH...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I HAD ONE OLDER BROTHER.
ANY CHILDREN OUT OF WEDLOCK?
A LITTLE BOY WITH WHITE OR SILVER HAIR WAS JUST HERE.
HE WAS VERY, VERY BEAUTIFUL...
...AND HE SAID HE CAME TO SEE ME...
!!
sniff sniff sniff sniff sniff sniff sniff sniff
No no!
THE USUAL SHAMPOO AND RINSE.
THE SOAP IS..SOME KIND OF CITRUS?
IT'S LEMON AND HONEY...
WHAT DID YOU PUT IN THE BATH?
RASPBERRY-FLAVORED BATH SALT...
C'MON! STOP! LET ME GO!
WAAH!! DON'T SNIFF ME!!
CALM DOWN IT'S JUST YOUR NORMAL AFTER-BATH SMELL
sniff sniff
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO TELL.

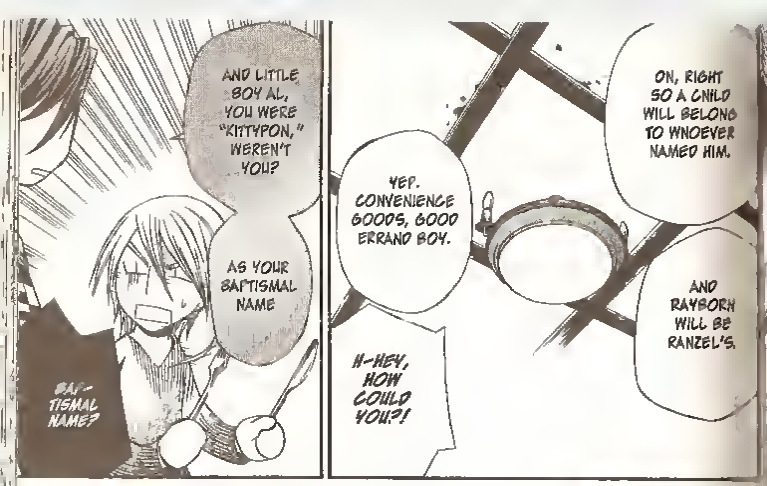
CAN I TRY?
Sniff sniff
OH, YES, I SMELL IT. LIKE IT MIGHT BE SWEET IF I LICK IT.
NO WAY!!
IS THAT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE?
WHERE DID I SEE ANYTHIN LIKE THAT HAPPEN? HOW?!
DON'T CHANT SOME WEIRD VOOOOO MAGIC!
DIRTY OLD MAN! DIRTY OLD MAN! DIRTY OLD MAN!
NO MATTER HOW OR WHERE I LOOK, THAT'S WHAT I SEE.
SMELL?
THAT'S RIGHT, THE SMELL!
DO I SMELL, BAROQUEHEAT?!
AND IT LINGERS DEEP AND STRONG...
WHY?
AFTER HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT MAKES YOU WISH THE SHIP WILL NEVER FIND PORT.
HE SAID THERE WERE TRAPS AND IT WAS DANGEROUS
AND..
..THE KID TOLD ME NOT TO GO TO AGANEA.
WHAT IS THIS?
I KNOW THIS SCENT.

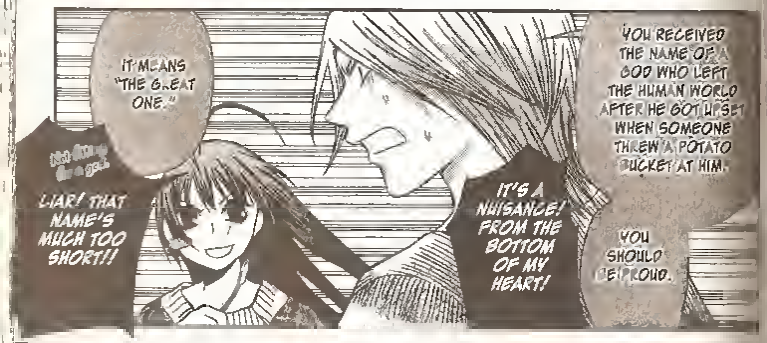
AND...
No, no, no!
AAAAH..
LITTLE BOY AL IS HARASSING RAHZEL LOLITA-STYLE
AND...?
AND WHAT...?

SEXUAL HARASSMENT BY A LADY? HOW NOVEL
WAY TO SPICE UP OUR BORING NIGHT-LIFE.
--SHE SAYS AS SHE SUCKS UP TO THE NEAREST HEAT SOURCE...
STICKING YOUR HANDS INSIDE MY CLOTHES EVEN!
DON'T NEED IT!
OH DEAR, YOU'RE SO COLD.
LET ME WARM YOU UP!
...WHAT'S BEEN ASKED?
DO YOU THINK IT'S COWARDLY TO ONLY ANSWER...
LIKE SAYING THAT SINCE NOTHING GOT PROMISED, IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF SOMEONE HATES YOU...
...OR THAT IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF PEOPLE GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS...
ISN'T THAT JUST A WAY OF PUTTING ON A STRONG FACE, JUST LIKE SAYING IT WON'T HURT YOU SINCE YOU DON'T CARE?
YOU'RE IN A HURRY?
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO ME, WHO LIVES A STRAIGHTFORWARD LIFE IN A HURRY!!
WELL, YOU'RE A COWARD TO BEGIN WITH.
WHAT THE --?!

...HY?
YOU SHOULDN'T WANT TO DO EVEN IF YOU HAD NO OTHER EXCUSE...
BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU HAD NO OTHER EXCUSE...
A PIRATE ROMANCE WHERE SPIRIT BURNS...
AND SOON ENOUGH IT'LL BE A LEGENDARY VOYAGE FULL OF LOVE, COURAGE, AND FISH IN THE GREAT BIG SEA...
BRING THAT UP AFTER YOU'VE CONQUERED SEASICKNESS.
AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
LET'S GO. DINNER WILL GET COLD.
NO OTHER EXCUSE ...?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S GO, RAHZEL.


THEN THAT'S NOT DISHONEST OR ANYTHING
AND YOU ANSWERED WHAT HE DID ASK ABOUT, RIGHT?
ONCE YOU START TALKING LIKE THAT, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS "THAT'S ALL RIGHT."
I'M AT A TOTAL DISADVANTAGE.
SO ANYWAY, WHY NOT JUST COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY IT?
?
WELL, YOU CAN GUESS WHAT QUESTION HE WAS HOLDING BACK, CAN'T YOU?
YOU'RE DISHONEST AND UNFAIR!!
WHAT? WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MOOD?
WELL THEN, WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD.
S-STOP IT, DIRTY OLD MAN!!
SHUT UP! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
Rayborn is
THE SUICIDE BOY HAS STARTED SAYING MEANINGFUL THINGS!
BUT THE FACT THAT HE'S STILL INTOLERANT OF PEOPLE'S DIFFERENT VALUES SHOWS HE'S QUITE GREEN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU TALKING LIKE THAT.
IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW...
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SAY I SHOULDN'T COME ALONG, 'CAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME...
THAT'S KINDA SAD...
I APPRECIATE DIFFERENT VALUES.
LISTEN, RAHZEL, I'M--
I'M GLAD THAT YOU BROUGHT THAT UP.
I LIKE YOU FOR DOING IT.
BUT YOU LOOK SO WEAK.
I'M NOT WEAK!!


AND LITTLE BOY AL, YOU WERE "KITTYPON," WEREN'T YOU?
AS YOUR BAPTISMAL NAME
BAP-TISMAL NAME?
OH, RIGHT SO A CHILD WILL BELONG TO WHOEVER NAMED HIM.
YEP. CONVENIENCE GOODS, GOOD ERRAND BOY.
AND RAYBORN WILL BE RANZEL'S.
H-HEY, HOW COULD YOU?!

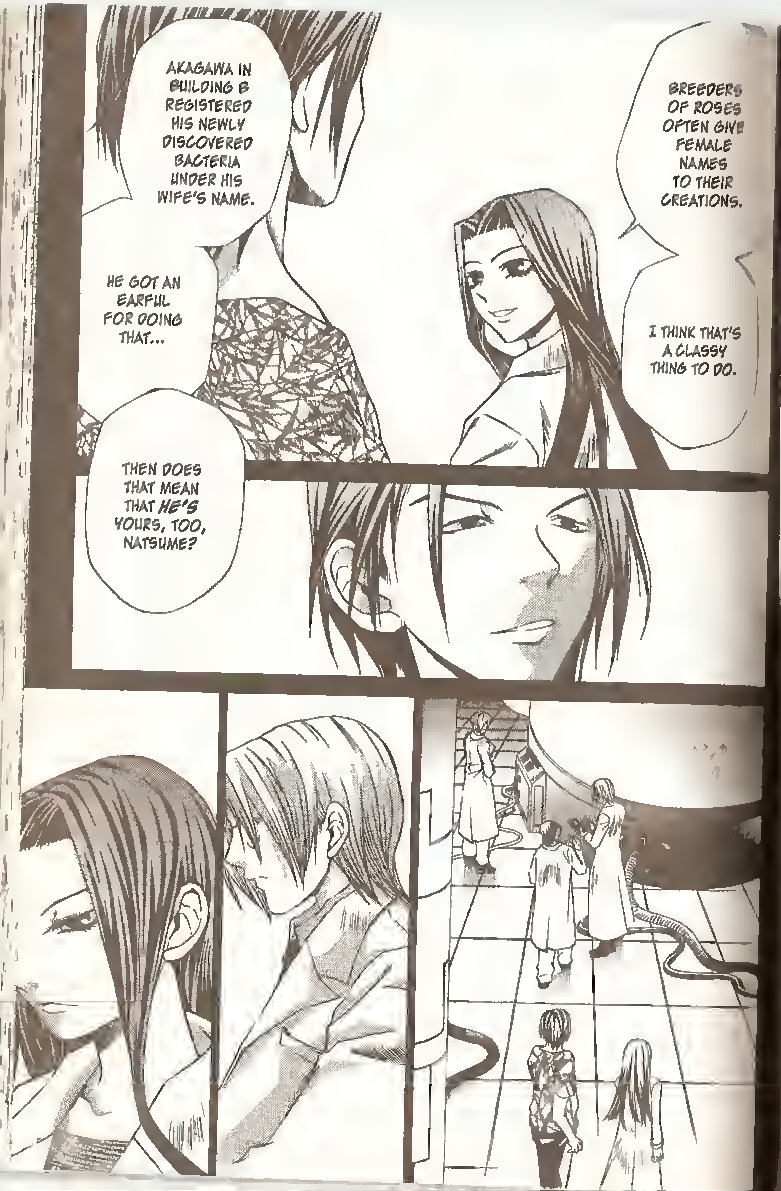

IT MEANS "THE GREAT ONE."
LIAR! THAT NAME'S MUCH TOO SHORT!!
YOU RECEIVED THE NAME OF A GOD WHO LEFT THE HUMAN WORLD AFTER HE GOT UPSET WHEN SOMEONE THREW A POTATO BUCKET AT HIM.
IT'S A NUISANCE! FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.

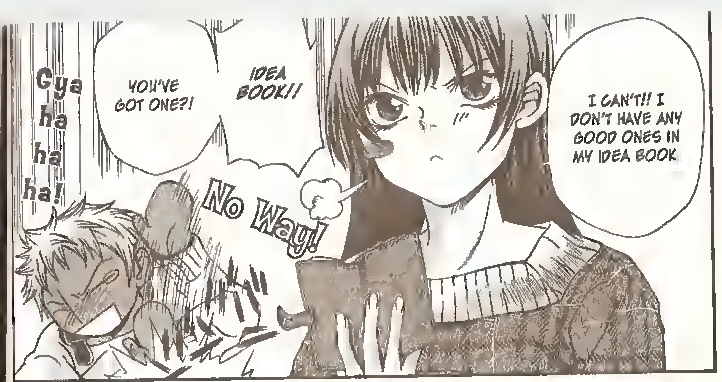
WHAT?! THOSE WERE NICKNAMES?
NO WAY! I WANT SOMETHING THAT'S NICER AND FULL OF LOVE!!
I GAVE YOU A FEW, LIKE ROACH MAN AND SEED NORSE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT HASN'T GOTTEN A NICKNAME.

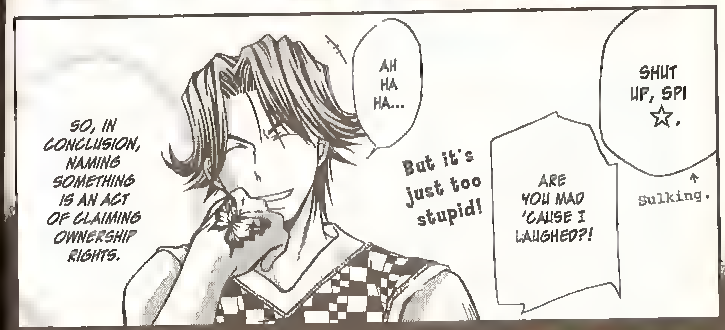
UH-HUH.
HE WANTED ME TO NAME HIM.
HE MUST BE COURAGEOUS OR RECKLESS OR SOME-THING.
A NAME?

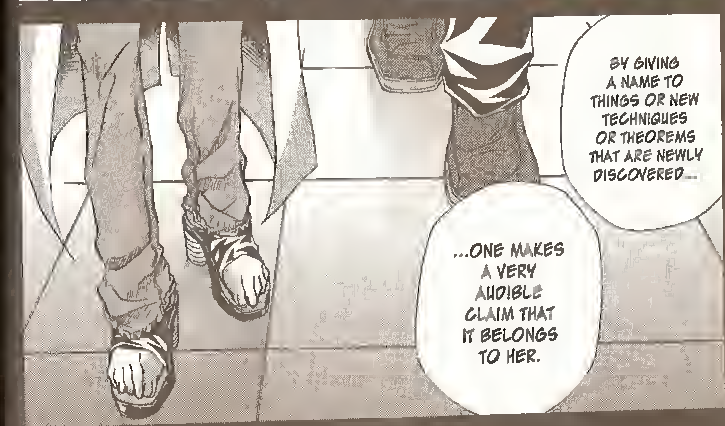
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHEN SOMEONE NAMES SOMETHING, IT'S IN ORDER TO CLAIM IT AS HIS.
I MEAN, I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING SOMETHING SIMILAR IN THE PAST.

YOUR TASTE IN NAMES SUCKS OUT LOUD!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, SPICY DIAMOND? ☆
AND I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR A TREAT LIKE THIS!!
SO THEN, THE KID WILL BELONG TO RANZEL.

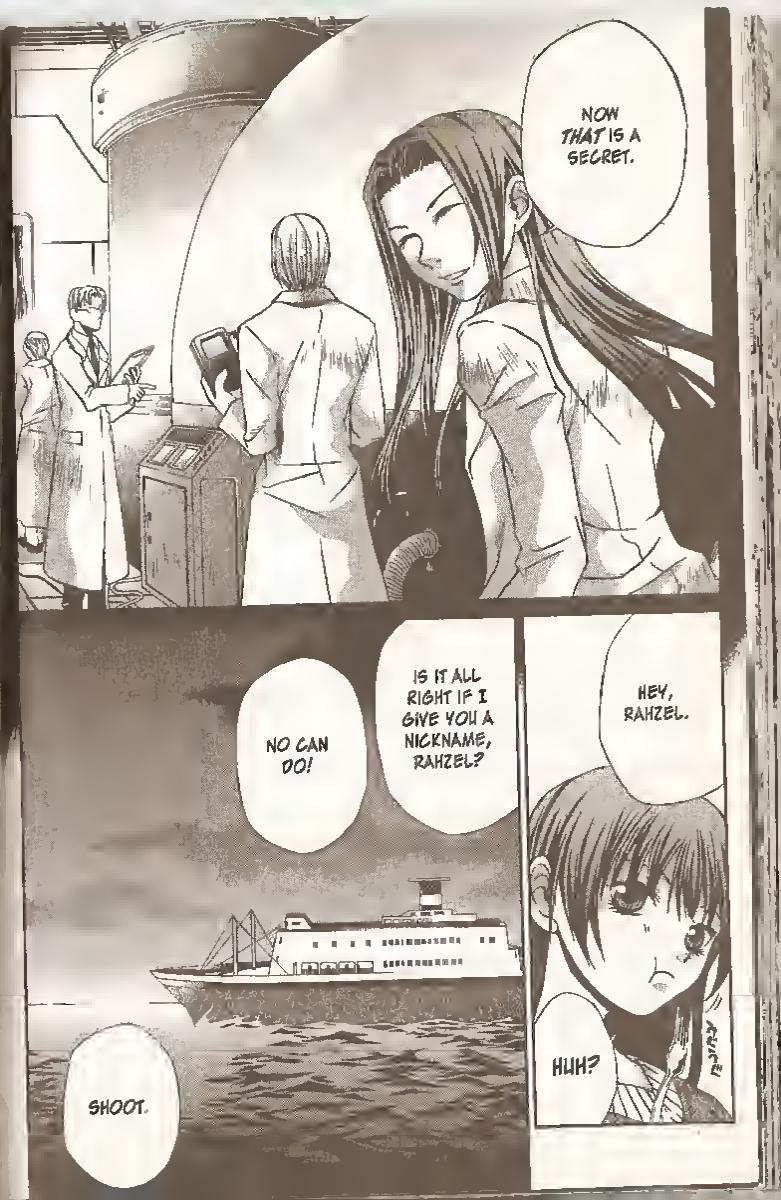

AKAGAWA IN BUILDING B REGISTERED HIS NEWLY DISCOVERED BACTERIA UNDER HIS WIFE'S NAME.
BREEDERS OF ROSES OFTEN GIVE FEMALE NAMES TO THEIR CREATIONS.
HE GOT AN EARFUL FOR DOING THAT...
I THINK THAT'S A CLASSY THING TO DO.
THEN DOES THAT MEAN THAT HE'S YOURS, TOO, NATSUME?

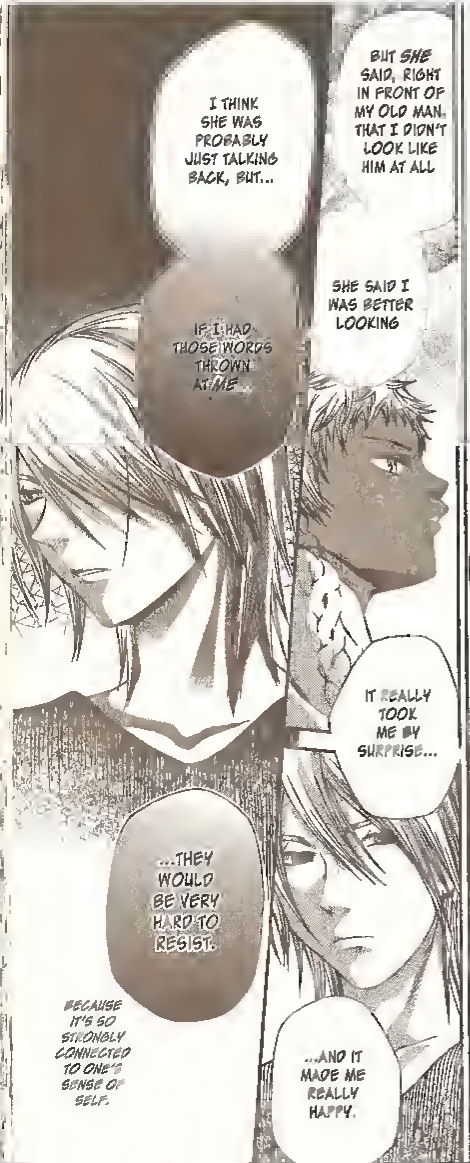

Gya ha ha ha!
YOU'VE GOT ONE?!
IDEA BOOK!!
No Way!
I CAN'T!! I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD ONES IN MY IDEA BOOK


SO, IN CONCLUSION, NAMING SOMETHING IS AN ACT OF CLAIMING OWNERSHIP RIGHTS.
AH HA HA...
But it's just too stupid!
ARE YOU MAD 'CAUSE I LAUGHED?!
SHUT UP, SPI ☆.
Sulking.


BY GIVING A NAME TO THINGS OR NEW TECHNIQUES OR THEOREMS THAT ARE NEWLY DISCOVERED...
...ONE MAKES A VERY AUDIBLE CLAIM THAT IT BELONGS TO HER.

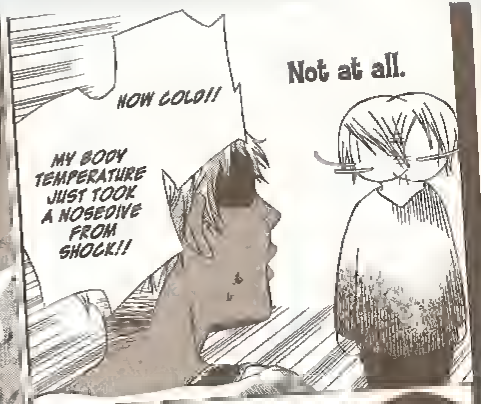
GAME DESCRIPTION
Sometimes not.
This is the one.(Many, many impossibles.)
WHY NOT?! WHY WON'T YOU PLAY TWISTER WITH ME?! IT'S ONLY A GAME!
WHY DO I HAVE TO PLAY A CLOSE-UP, TOUCHY-FEELY PARTY GAME ALONE WITH YOU?
PLAY THE GAME WITH RAHZEL!!
I WILL NOT.
THINK ABOUT THE WHOLE PICTURE, WILL YOU!?!
IT'D BE MORE DANGEROUS TO PLAY IT WITH A MAN! DON'T YOU GET IT?!
I'M TOO EMBARRASSED.
IF I ASKED HER TO PLAY IT, THAT WOULD MAKE ME A DIRTY OLD MAN.
HEY, STOP SAYING THAT.
GO HOME.
WE'RE FRIENDS. YOU LIKE ME TOO, DON'T YOU?!
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT A PILLOW FI--


NOW THAT IS A SECRET.
HEY, RAHZEL.
HUH?
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I GIVE YOU A NICKNAME, RAHZEL?
NO CAN DO!
SHOOT.


I THINK SHE WAS PROBABLY JUST TALKING BACK, BUT...
BUT SHE SAID, RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY OLD MAN, THAT I DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HIM AT ALL
SHE SAID I WAS BETTER LOOKING
IF I HAD THOSE WORDS THROWN AT ME...
IT REALLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE...
...THEY WOULD BE VERY HARD TO RESIST.
BECAUSE IT'S SO STRONGLY CONNECTED TO ONE'S SENSE OF SELF.
...AND IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

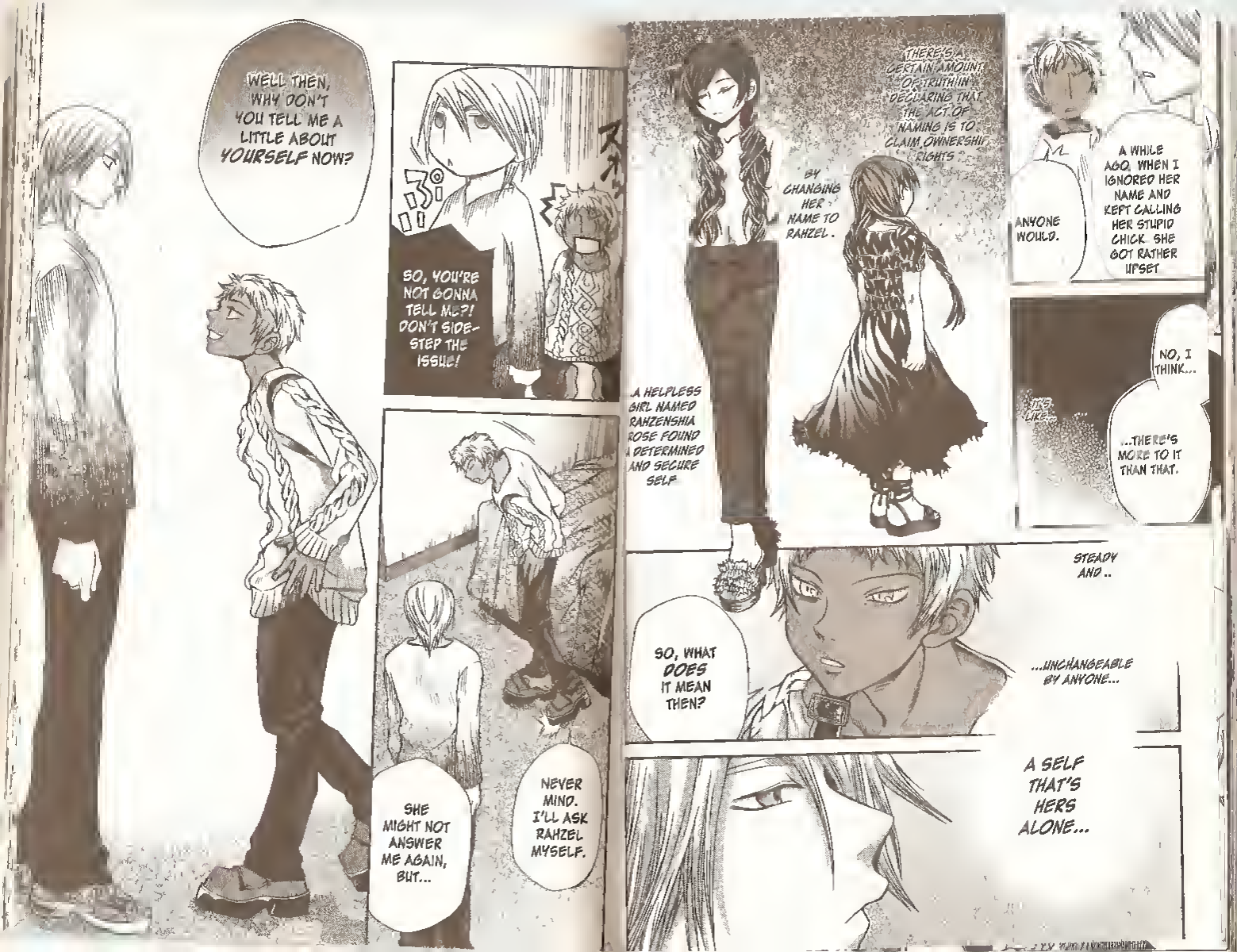
I USED TO HATE MY FACE.
EVERYBODY SAYS I LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY OLD MAN WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
SO I DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO SEE MY FACE. THAT'S WHY I'D GROWN MY HAIR LONG LIKE THAT--TO HIDE MY FACE.

WELL...
I LIKE YOU A LOT...


Not at all.
HOW COLD!!
MY BODY TEMPERATURE JUST TOOK A NOSEDIVE FROM SHOCK!!

THEN DO YOU LIKE YOUNG WOMEN, YOU WEIRDO?!
OF COURSE I DO!!
NO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!
DON'T TELL ME--YOU'RE A HOMO?

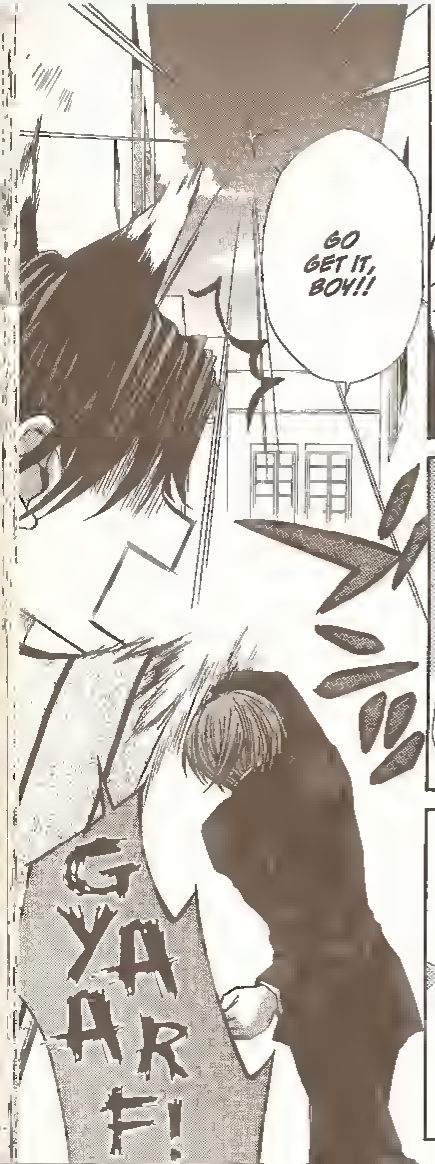
RAYBORN, WHY DO YOU LIKE RAHZEL SO MUCH?
EH?
WELL, THAT SHE LIKES ME IS THE BEST PART, BUT...
I'LL MAKE YOU WANT TO BE BY MY SIDE ALWAYS!!
BUT FRIEND-SHIP IS A LONG AND WINDING ROAD!!
DON'T YOU GET HOW CREEPY YOU'RE SOUNDING?


WELL THEN, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF NOW?
SO, YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME?! DON'T SIDE-STEP THE ISSUE!
SHE MIGHT NOT ANSWER ME AGAIN, BUT...
NEVER MIND. I'LL ASK RAHZEL MYSELF.
A HELPLESS GIRL NAMED RAHZENSHIA ROSE FOUND A DETERMINED AND SECURE SELF
BY CHANGING HER NAME TO RAHZEL.
THERE'S A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRUTH IN DECLARING THAT THE ACT OF NAMING IS TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP RIGHTS.
ANYONE WOULD.
A WHILE AGO, WHEN I IGNORED HER NAME AND KEPT CALLING HER STUPID CHICK SHE GOT RATHER UPSET
NO, I THINK...
...THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
SO, WHAT DOES IT MEAN THEN?
STEADY AND..
...UNCHANGEABLE BY ANYONE...
A SELF THAT'S HERS ALONE...

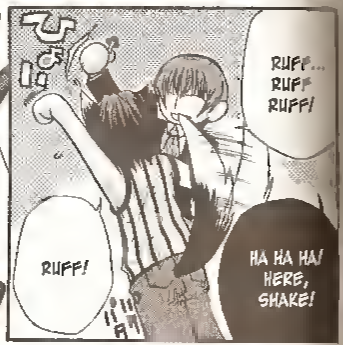
ACTUALLY, SHE'S FINE AS FAR AS MEMORIZING GOES.
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T REMEMBER EVEN IF THEY TOLD YOU.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS, SHE'S NO GOOD.
SH-SHUT UP, ERRAND BOY!
MAYBE THERE'S A CURFEW?
SPOOKY!
twitch
WHAT?
slam
WHO KNOWS?
I WANNA ASK ABOUT PLACES TO STAY AND STUFF.
BUT THERE'S NOBODY AROUND!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO QUIET TO CALL NORMAL?
YOUR DAD SAID IT WAS RISKY, BUT IT SEEMS PRETTY NORMAL TO ME.
YEAH. THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SOUL AROUND.
BUT IT DOES FEEL SOMEHOW ILLEGAL.
IT'S NOT ILLEGAL.
AND WE DIDN'T CROSS ANY BORDER LINES.
WE DID IT!! ILLEGAL ENTRY!!
YAY!!

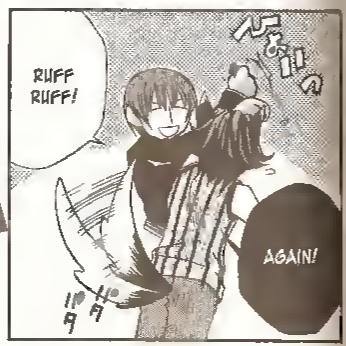
KIARA!!
NOW THEN.
BAROQUE-HEAT.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CALL ME DEAR OLDER BROTHER.

HUH? WHERE SHOULD WE MEET UP WITH YOU THEN?
SORRY... YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME.
OH? ARE YOU UNHAPPY? JEALOUS?
HMM..
KINDA LIKE THAT.
GO THEN!!
BUT RANZEL, IF YOU'D LET ME LICK YOU AND CARESS YOU AND ●●●● (SELF-CENSORSHIP) YOU, THEN I WON'T EVEN LOOK AT OTHER WOM--
Ah!

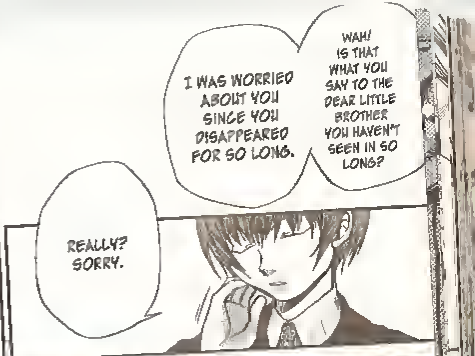

GO GET IT, BOY!!
GYAARF!

AND THIS IS THE KEY.
DO YOU WANT IT, HEAT?


RUFF... RUFF RUFF!
RUFF!
HA HA HA! HERE, SHAKE!


RUFF RUFF!
AGAIN!

OH, OKAY.
NICE--


WAH! IS THAT WHAT YOU SAY TO THE DEAR LITTLE BROTHER YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN SO LONG?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU SINCE YOU DISAPPEARED FOR SO LONG.
REALLY? SORRY.

SOME KOM
?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE BROTHER YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN SO LONG?

OH? OHH??
IT WON'T COME OFF.
IT'S STRONG, ISN'T IT? IT'S FORGED OF THE SAME SPECIAL ALLOY AS KOTETSU'S BODY.
BRANOWEN MADE IT FOR ME.

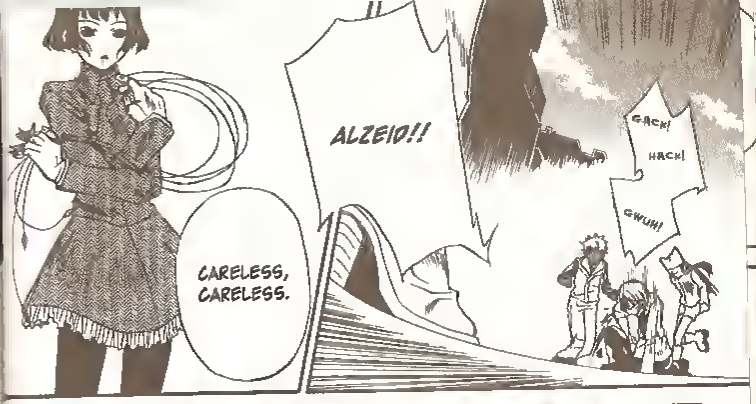
UMM ...
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF JOKE, KIARA?

HE'S SO DEAD!
GOOOAMMIT, THAT LITTLE DEVIL!
ゴーンバゴーン
カラカラ
IS BAROQUEHEAT ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
THE BEASTLY POWER.
YOU MEAN LIKE A NOMING INSTINCT?
IT MUST BE THE POWER OF THE WILD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY POWER?
Confident.
I WAS WONDERING HOW HE MANAGES TO KEEP UP, GOING OFF ON HIS OWN LIKE THAT.
WHAT?
I CAN'T HAVE YOU MESSING UP THE FUN I'VE GOT PLANNED.
SIT. STAY. AND DON'T BARK.
HEAT. ♡
CAREFUL, IT MAY BE HABIT-FORMING.
I'LL COME AND FREE YOU IF I FEEL LIKE IT.
S & M? NEGLECT + BONDAGE?
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? ARE WE ENTERING THE REALM OF STRANGE SEXUAL FANTASIES?
NO...I DON'T WANNA BE PART OF SUCH A DEEP ROLE-PLAY!!
ガチャガチャガチャガチャ
RGH!!
COME OFF, DAMMIT, OFF!!
DAMMIT!
DAMN! IT REALLY WON'T COME OFF!!
WAIT! WHAT FUN ARE YOU PLANNING?!
LET ME GO, TOO!!
HEAVE!!

?!
GUFF!

LET'S ASK HIM.
BUT THERE AREN'T THAT MANY ALBINOS WHO WALK AROUND IN THE DAYTIME LIKE THAT.
WAIT, BROTHER...
UH-HUH THERE WAS A REPORT JUST NOW.
THAT MAN ...
..OVER THERE?
That guy's an old man
I tell you
YOU NOTICED THAT TOO, HUH?
HIS EYES AND HAIR COLOR MATCH, BUT...
.. ISN'T HE TOO OLD TO BE CALLED A YOUNG BOY?
YES, BIG BROTHER.
BINGO!
ADDY.
EXCUSE ME
ARE YOU OR AREN'T YOU ALZEID?
DON'T BE SO RUDE, ALZEID!
I'M SORRY, SIR.
SO WHAT IF I AM?
YOU WANNA FIGHT?

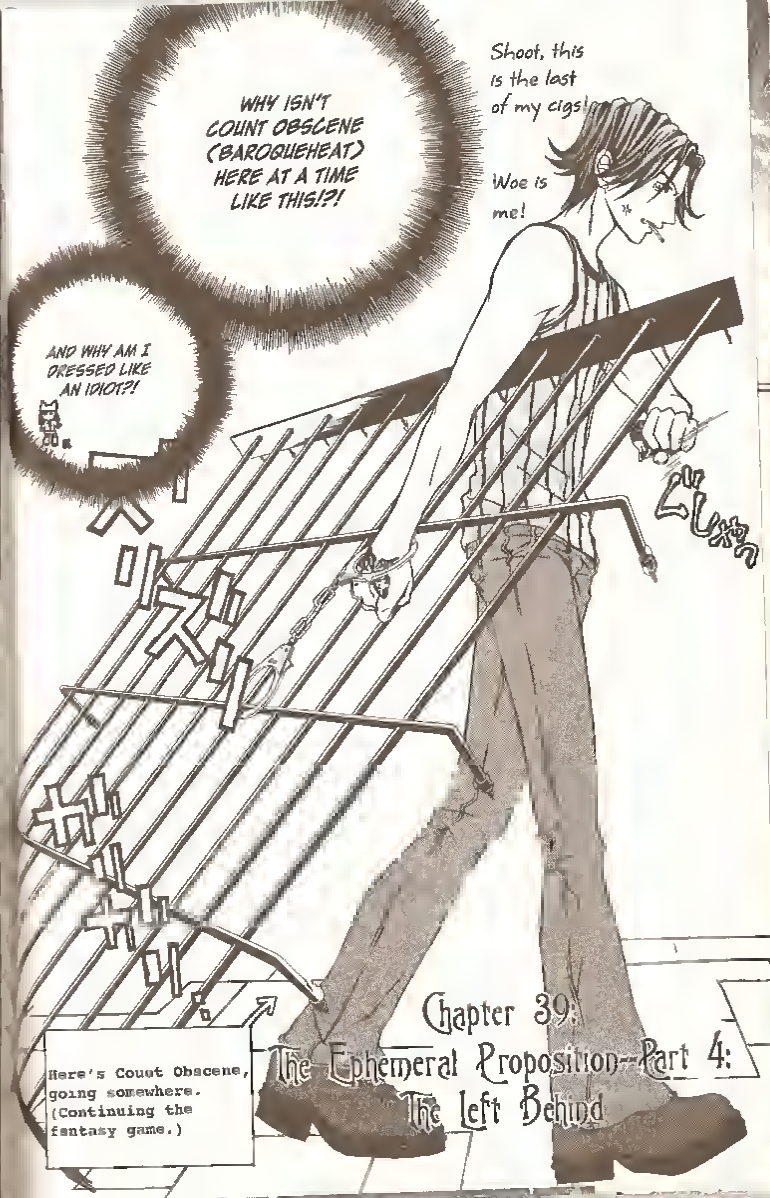
AND NOW, PREPARE...
...TO DIE.
GOD-FRICKIN'-DAMMIT!!
WHY?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!


CARELESS, CARELESS.
ALZEID!!
GACH!
HACH!
GWUH!

AND NOW, PREPARE...

...TO DIE.

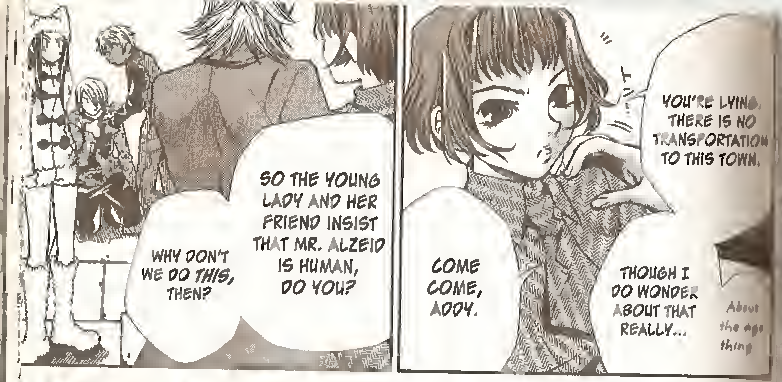
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON...
HOW CAN I LEAVE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF?!
HE'S RIGHT.
UGH.
WHAT?!
...BUT CAN YOU GET ALZEID AWAY FROM HERE?
RAYBORN?

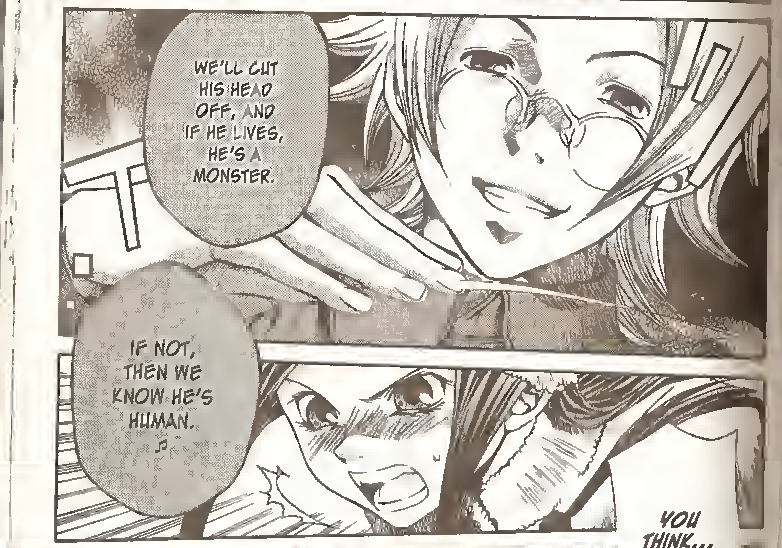

WHY ISN'T COUNT OBSCENE (BAROQUEHEAT) HERE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?!
AND WHY AM I DRESSED LIKE AN IDIOT?!
Shoot, this is the last of my cigs!
Woe is me!
Here's Count Obscene, going somewhere. (Continuing the fantasy game.)

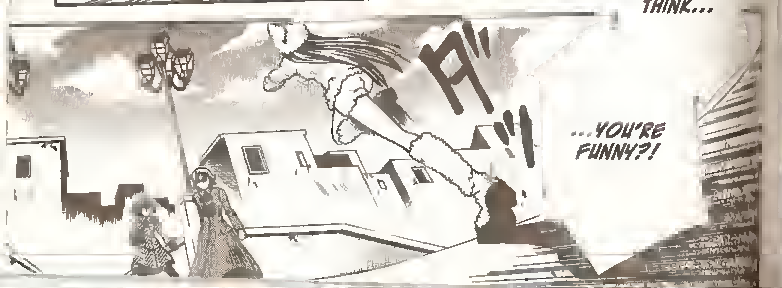
Chapter 39: The Ephemeral Proposition--Part 4: The Left Behind

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD PREPARE...
WITH THAT WOUND, HOW COULD YOU...?
YOU ARE A MONSTER.
MONSTER?
stagger
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU--?
?
ALZEIO!!
What're you saying?
for treating a girl like that!
Serves you right.
WHAT?
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY TAKING EFFECT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING...?

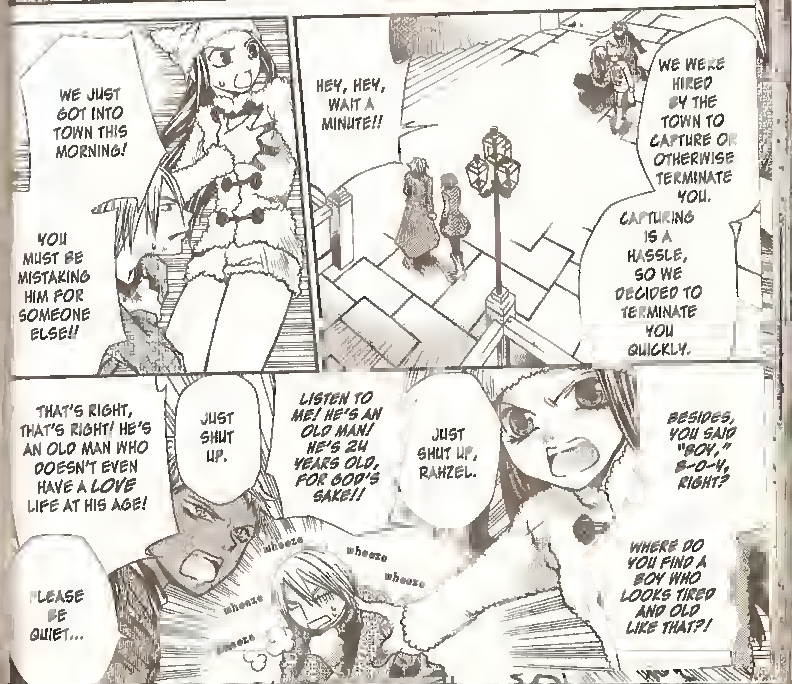
ALZEIO?!
I'M NOT READY TO LET YOU TAKE CARE OF ME YET!!
YOU'RE FINISHED
PREPARE TO DIE? ME?
WHA--?!
QUITE A LINE FOR A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU.
KAH


SO THE YOUNG LADY AND HER FRIEND INSIST THAT MR. ALZEID IS HUMAN, DO YOU?
WHY DON'T WE DO THIS, THEN?
YOU'RE LYING. THERE IS NO TRANSPORTATION TO THIS TOWN.
COME COME, ADDY.
THOUGH I DO WONDER ABOUT THAT REALLY...
About the age thing


WE'LL CUT HIS HEAD OFF, AND IF HE LIVES, HE'S A MONSTER.
IF NOT, THEN WE KNOW HE'S HUMAN.
♫

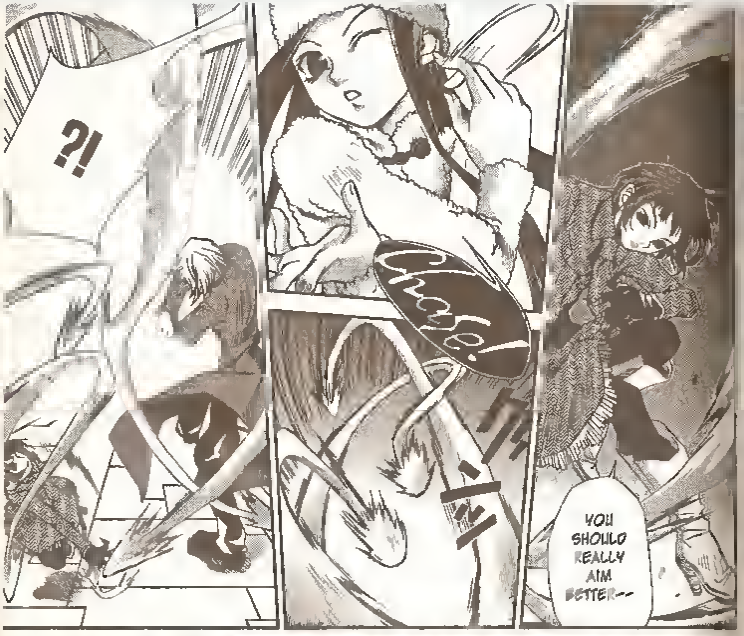

YOU THINK...
...YOU'RE FUNNY?!

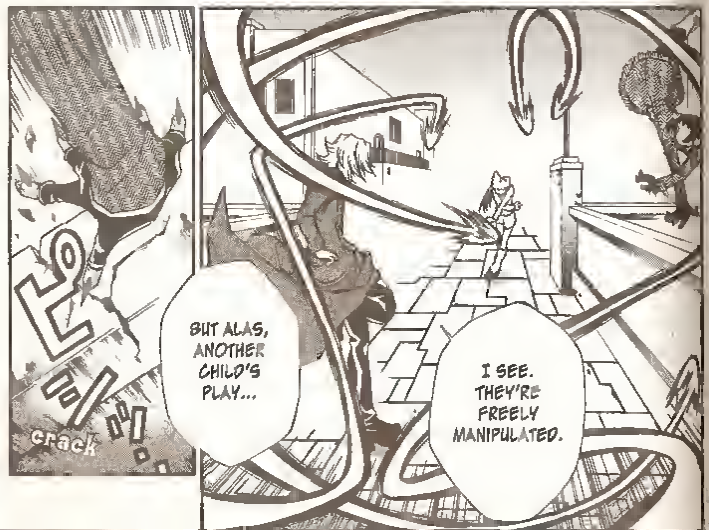
A BOY NAMED ALZEID WITH WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES...
...WHO'S BEEN DOING A LOT OF KILLING HERE IN ACANEA.
THAT'S YOU, THE "MONSTER."
WE WERE TOLD THAT YOU CAN'T BE KILLED NORMALLY...
...SO A KIND PERSON GAVE US THIS.
THEY SAID IT'S POISON THAT ONLY WORKS ON YOU.

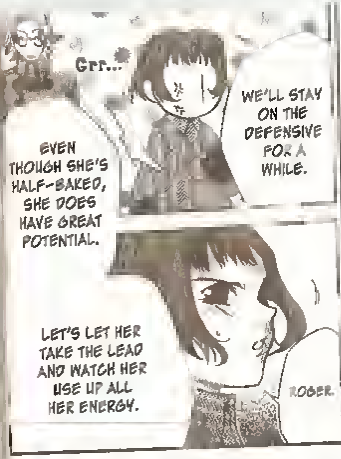

WE JUST GOT INTO TOWN THIS MORNING!
YOU MUST BE MISTAKING HIM FOR SOMEONE ELSE!!
HEY, HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!!
WE WERE HIRED BY THE TOWN TO CAPTURE OR OTHERWISE TERMINATE YOU.
CAPTURING IS A HASSLE, SO WE DECIDED TO TERMINATE YOU QUICKLY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S AN OLD MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A LOVE LIFE AT HIS AGE!
JUST SHUT UP.
LISTEN TO ME! HE'S AN OLD MAN! HE'S 24 YEARS OLD, FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
JUST SHUT UP, RAHZEL.
BESIDES, YOU SAID "BOY," B-O-Y, RIGHT?
PLEASE BE QUIET...
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
WHERE DO YOU FIND A BOY WHO LOOKS TIRED AND OLD LIKE THAT?!

ADDYYY!!
THUNDER?! NO, ADDY! GET AWAY!
MERE CHILD'S PLAY...
slice
RUN FORTH, LORD THUNDER!!
LIKE A GALE, LIKE THE WIND FROM A SWORD!!
ASSAULT WITH SHRAPNEL WITHIN THESE HANDS, BEAT THE IRON HAMMER OF FLAMES,
SHRED THE FLESH, STRIKE THE BONES, CONQUER, CONQUER!
THIS IS IT!
I'LL DESTROY YOU!!
Tak
Tak
Tak
GET BACK, BIG BROTHER!!

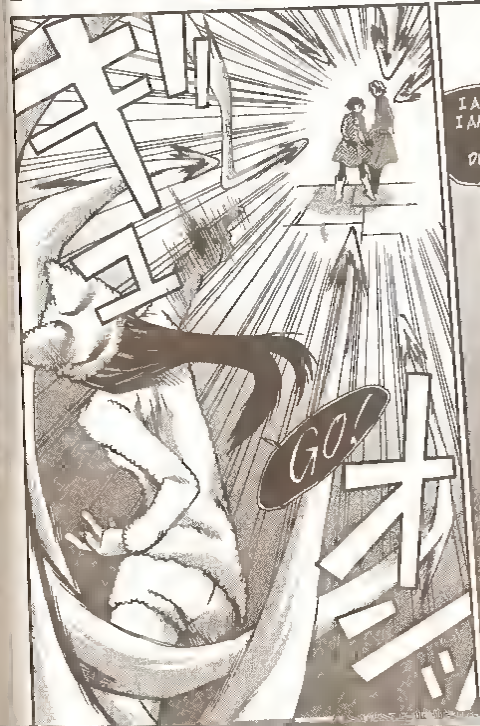
MAGIC IS THE POWER TO PROJECT AN IMAGE IN ONE'S HEAD INTO THE REAL WORLD.
UNDERSTAND, THE IMAGE IN ONE'S HEAD.
THERE'S NO NEED TO CHANT THINGS LIKE THAT.
NOT GOOD.
IT LOOKS LIKE RAHZEL'S GOT THE BETTER OF THEM.
WHY?
SHE WON'T WIN EVEN THE SIMPLEST MATCH.
...WITHOUT CHANTING A SPELL THAT DECLARES HER ACTIONS TO THE ENEMY ..
IF SHE CAN'T GET A CLEAR IMAGE IN HER HEAD...
BECAUSE SHE'S UPSET, SHE'S NOT ABLE TO DO WHAT SHE CAN NORMALLY DO.
ALZEID...
...YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL, DO YOU?
Chin
HOW NOVEL. A WITCH.
Tsk
THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK WAS A PRETTY GOOD TRICK.
Snap
I WAS ALMOST ELECTROCUTED, WIRE AND ALL.
HER POWER IS GREAT, AND HER REACTION TIME QUICK..
Crik Crik
BUT AS A WITCH, SHE'S ONLY HALF-BAKED
SHE'S NO MATCH FOR US.

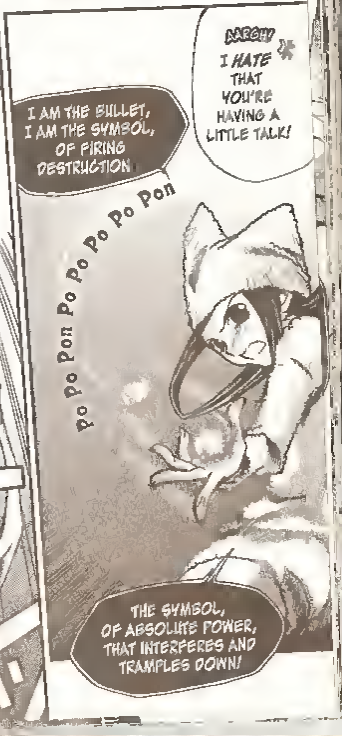

?!
Crash!
YOU SHOULD REALLY AIM BETTER--

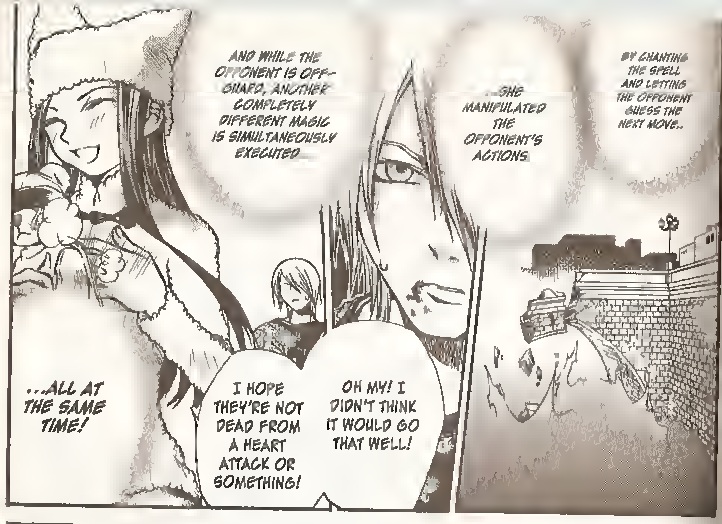

Crack
BUT ALAS, ANOTHER CHILD'S PLAY...
I SEE. THEY'RE FREELY MANIPULATED.

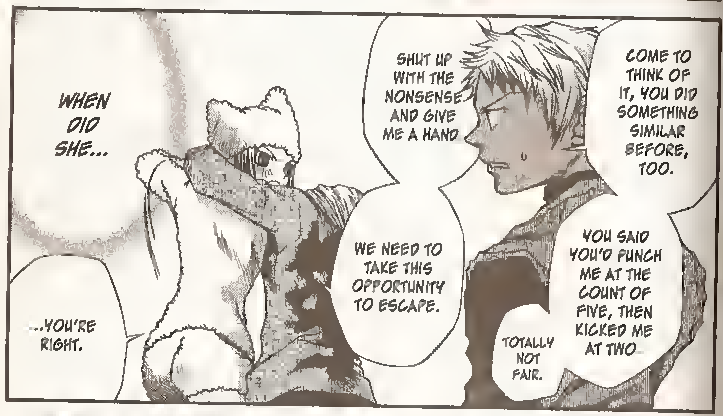

Grr...
WE'LL STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE FOR A WHILE.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S HALF-BAKED, SHE DOES HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL.
LET'S LET HER TAKE THE LEAD AND WATCH HER USE UP ALL HER ENERGY.
ROGER.

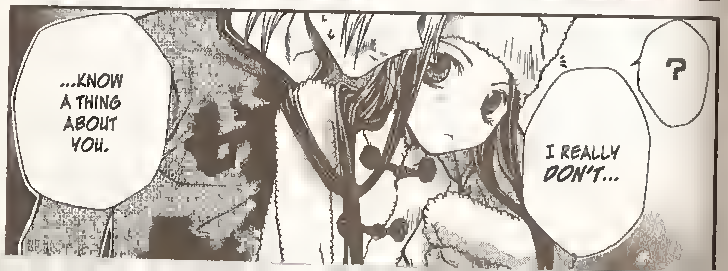
WHAT?
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG, ADDY?
IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE, I'LL START ATTACKING YOU AGAIN!!


GO!

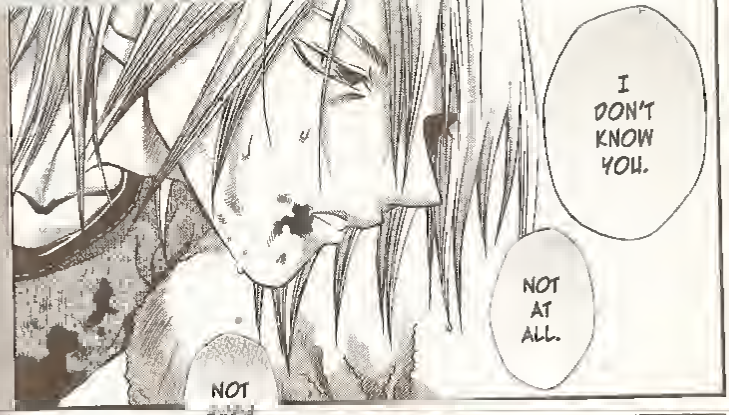

I AM THE BULLET, I AM THE SYMBOL, OF FIRING DESTRUCTION
Po Po Pon Po Po Po Pon
ARGH! I HATE THAT YOU'RE HAVING A LITTLE TALK!
THE SYMBOL, OF ABSOLUTE POWER, THAT INTERFERES AND TRAMPLES DOWN!


...ALL AT THE SAME TIME!
I HOPE THEY'RE NOT DEAD FROM A HEART ATTACK OR SOMETHING!
OH MY! I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD GO THAT WELL!
AND WHILE THE OPPONENT IS OFF-GUARD, ANOTHER COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MAGIC IS SIMULTANEOUSLY EXECUTED...
...SHE MANIPULATED THE OPPONENT'S ACTIONS.
BY CHANTING THE SPELL AND LETTING THE OPPONENT GUESS THE NEXT MOVE..


WHEN DID SHE...
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE NEED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE.
SHUT UP WITH THE NONSENSE AND GIVE ME A HAND
TOTALLY NOT FAIR.
YOU SAID YOU'D PUNCH ME AT THE COUNT OF FIVE, THEN KICKED ME AT TWO.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DID SOMETHING SIMILAR BEFORE, TOO.


...KNOW A THING ABOUT YOU.
I REALLY DON'T...
?

splash
?!
WHA..?!
NYA H!
THE BRIDGE...


I DON'T KNOW YOU.
NOT AT ALL.

NOT EVEN A THING.
RAHZEL...

...ALZEID...?
Dazzle Volume 5 END

Kiara finally appears with a name! I had kept his name a secret from my assistants since I didn't want them to inadvertently tell anyone. This made the toning assignments really difficult, but to make things easier, my assistants gave him a name without my knowledge. It was "Bozu-kun" [Little Brat Boy]. I'll scream with indignation into the setting sun.

Chapter 32: The Ephemeral Proposition—Part 4: The Left Behind
I did it, mama! Another girl character!! I don't want to draw men anymore. It's so hard—muscle, muscle, muscle. I keep thinking that, but Dazzle is chock full of male characters! Minori Endoh, new character lover!! (What kind of a catchphrase is this?)

Will Volume 6 come out in February if all things go well? I mean, the editor in charge assured me that I won't be doing anything else until I get it out. Shoot. Since the timeframe is right, maybe it will come with a limited edition calendar like the one that came with Volume 4—of course with all-new drawings. I am declaring this now without the knowledge of the editor. (I'm just scheming.)
Well then. See you again in Volume 6! (And in B6 Comics, too, before that.)

Minari Endoh
遠藤海成

Chapter 33: After Flowers Bloom—Part 3: Snowmelt
I promised myself that I would see the cherry blossoms for sure this year. But what about the final sentence of the chapter when it was published in the magazine? "And maybe again, someday..." Is this the end, Dazzle?

Commission: A Pretty Good Holiday
Oily baths make you wonder. They're slimy and stuff. By the way, how did Hahzel-san and Heat-kun get out of the tub after this?

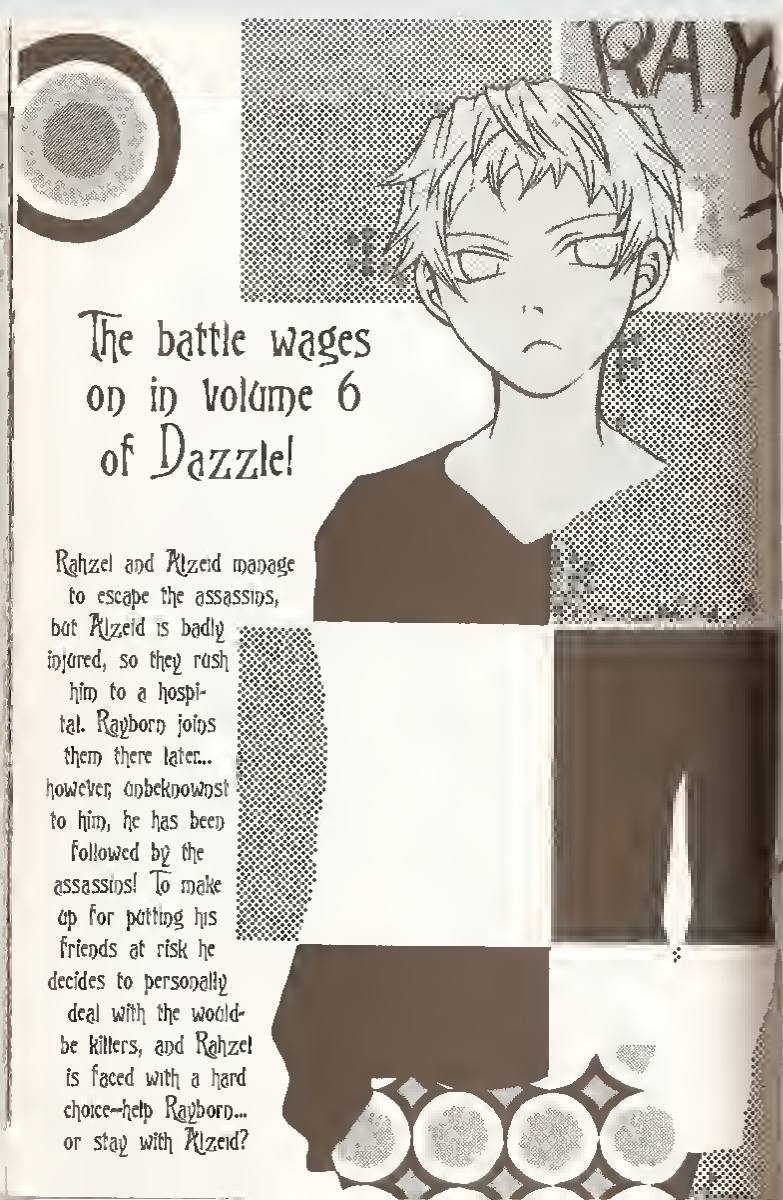
Chapter 34: One Cold Winter Day—Part 1: Just Wishing for Happiness
I like new kids. People always ask me what my favorite character is in the story, but I usually settle on the character with the shortest time span thus far. I had a book signing when Volume 4 was published and was asked the same question. My answer then was Natsume. My favorite male character is Baroqueheart. I know he's not the newest character, but anyway...

Chapter 35: One Cold Winter Day—Part 2: Ravages of the Chanting Voice
Before I started the series I was addicted to an online game, and Spicy Diamond (or something close to that) was the nickname of a character I was using. Spicy was all in lowercase and DIAMOND was totally in uppercase. Kitlipon was the name of another character. Too much reuse.

Chapter 36: The Ephemeral Proposition—Part 1: Rod So the Game Continues
The magazine that Baroqueheart has in his hand on page 95, Shunkan Josei [Momentary Woman, a pun on Shukan Josei, Weekly Woman, a popular women's magazine] has all kinds of article titles written on it, like "New Half Age 25: Give me back my baby!" and "Coming Boom: Diet the Ninja Way." Sadly, letters ended up on top of them and you can't see them at all. Too bad.

Chapter 37: The Ephemeral Proposition—Part 2: Separated
The story about building stone steps in a mandarin orange orchard is a real story from a friend. The part where they're totally silent as they work and eat mandarins when they get hungry is also true. My friend and his pal apparently picked and devoured the best mandarins that would have been sold to the best restaurants. They did finish the steps, by the way.

Chapter 38: The Ephemeral Proposition—Part 3: like the End of a Long Dream
My father is a curator at a museum where he studies insects, and you know—he had to do it. He gave his name to an insect he had newly discovered. I mean, it's much better than naming it after his daughter or something, but... oh well.



The battle wages on in Volume 6 of Dazzle!

Rahzel and Alzeid manage to escape the assassins, but Alzeid is badly injured, so they rush him to a hospital. Rayborn joins them there later... however, unbeknownst to him, he has been followed by the assassins! To make up for putting his friends at risk he decides to personally deal with the would-be killers, and Rahzel is faced with a hard choice—help Rayborn... or stay with Alzeid?